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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 150

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2004

No. 1

House of Representatives

The House met at noon.

The SPEAKER. This being the day fixed by Public Law 108-181, 108th Congress, enacted pursuant to the 20th amendment to the Constitution for the meeting of the second session of the 108th Congress, the House will be in order.

The prayer will be offered by the Chaplain.

The Chaplain, Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Almighty God, I present to You today the rightful stewards of a sacred trust given them by the people, those duly elected to serve as their representatives in the 108th Congress of the United States of America.

Lord, be present to them now and every day of the second session of this assembly, the largest and most integral part of Federal Government. Make of them leaders fashioned in Your own image who will guide the rich diversity of this Nation into an evermore perfect Union.

In the face of the awesome responsibilities they are to shoulder in protecting the Constitution and defending the security of this Nation, knowing the troublesome times in which we live, grant them humility in Your service and freedom from fear or hesitation.

By Your holy wisdom and as masters in the art of politics, may they enact laws that will foster the rights and guide the creativity of the greatest and the least in this Nation.

Today, I ask every American to join with me in praying daily for the Members of this House that they may "establish Justice, ensure lasting Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty" for all Americans and become again a beacon of hope to other nations. This we pray now and forever.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(c) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER), as indicated in the RECORD of December 15, 2003, the whole number of the House is adjusted to 434.

CALL OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will utilize the electronic system to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

Members will record their presence by electronic device.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members responded to their names:

[Roll No. 1]

Ackerman
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Ballance
Ballenger
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Becerra
Bell
Bereuter
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)

Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Burns
Burr
Buyer
Calvert
Cannon
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carson (OK)
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Clay
Clyburn
Coble
Cole
Collins
Conyers
Crowley
Cubin
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint

Deutsch
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Dooley (CA)
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood

Grijalva
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoefel
Hoekstra
Holden
Honda
Hooley (OR)
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inslee
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kleczka
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)

Lewis (KY)
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Majette
Manzullo
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Menendez
Michaud
Millender
Issa
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nethercutt
Neugebauer
Ney
Norwood
Nunes
Obey
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Porter
Portman

Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Sabo
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Sandlin
Saxton
Schrock
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shadegg
Shays
Sherwood
Neal (MA)
Shimkus
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Stenholm
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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| | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Thornberry | Van Hollen | Whitfield |
| Tiahrt | Velázquez | Wicker |
| Tiberi | Visclosky | Wilson (NM) |
| Tierney | Vitter | Wilson (SC) |
| Towns | Walden (OR) | Wolf |
| Turner (OH) | Wamp | Wu |
| Turner (TX) | Watt | Wynn |
| Udall (CO) | Weiner | Young (AK) |
| Udall (NM) | Weldon (PA) | |
| Upton | Weller | |

□ 1232

The SPEAKER. On this rollcall, 321 Members have recorded their presence by electronic device, a quorum.

Under the rule, further proceedings under the call are dispensed with.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BLUNT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 743. An act to amend the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional safeguards for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries with representative payees, to enhance program protections, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2264. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 to carry out the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) program, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1172. An act to establish grants to provide health services for improved nutrition, increased physical activity, obesity prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1177. An act to prevent tobacco smuggling, to ensure the collection of all tobacco taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 1267. An act to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to provide the District of Columbia with autonomy over its budgets, and for other purposes.

S. 2000. An act to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 2 years.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 108-132, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following individuals to the Commission on Review of Overseas Military Facility Structure of the United States—

Al Cornella, of South Dakota, and James A. Thompson, of California.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 108-79, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, appoints Gustavus

Aldolphus Puryear, IV, of Tennessee to the National Prison Rape Reduction Commission for a term of two years.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 108-79, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, after consultation with the Majority Leader, appoints the following individuals to the National Prison Rape Reduction Commission—

James Evan Aiken, of North Carolina, and

Cindy Struckman-Johnson, of South Dakota.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 14, 2004.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Capitol Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed is a copy of my official resignation letter that was sent to the Governor of South Dakota and the SD Secretary of State.

I will be resigning from the House of Representatives effective 11:59 p.m. on January 20, 2004.

Please let me know if there are any further formalities which I must perform or accomplish to effectuate this resignation.

Thank you for all the courtesies you have extended to me and the people of South Dakota.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. JANKLOW.

Enclosure.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 14, 2004.

Hon. MIKE ROUNDS,
Governor of South Dakota,
Pierre, SD.

Hon. CHRIS NELSON,
Secretary of State,
Pierre, SD.

DEAR GOVERNOR ROUNDS AND SECRETARY OF STATE NELSON: I wish to inform you that because of present circumstances, I am and will be unable to perform the duties incumbent upon me in representing the people of South Dakota as their US Representative.

Therefore, I wish to inform you that I will resign from the House of Representatives effective 11:59 p.m. on January 20, 2004.

Representing the people of South Dakota in all the capacities that I have over the years has brought a treasure of memories and friends. This includes the year I have spent in the US House.

I am thankful to the people of South Dakota for the courtesies they have shown me.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. JANKLOW.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ, CHAIRMAN, DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable ROBERT MENENDEZ, Chairman, Democratic Caucus:

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
January 5, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you that the Honorable Ralph Hall of Texas has resigned as a Member of the Democratic Caucus effective immediately.

Sincerely,

ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 20, 2004.

Hon. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT,
Chairman, Committee on Science, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is to advise you that Representative Ralph M. Hall's election to the Committee on Science has been automatically vacated pursuant to clause 5(b) of rule X effective January 5, 2004.

Sincerely,

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 20, 2004.

Hon. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is to advise you that Representative Ralph M. Hall's election to the Committee on Energy and Commerce has been automatically vacated pursuant to clause 5(b) of rule X effective January 5, 2004.

Sincerely,

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House.

COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 486) providing for a committee to notify the President of the assembly of the Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 486

Resolved, That a committee of two Members be appointed by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives to join with a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 486

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to House Resolution 486, and the order of the House of December 8, 2003, the Chair announces his appointment of the following Members to the committee on the part of the House to join a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has been assembled and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make:

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and
the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

NOTIFICATION TO THE SENATE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 487) to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 487

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House inform the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DAILY HOUR OF MEETING

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 488) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 488

Resolved, That unless otherwise ordered, before Monday, May 31, 2004, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be 2 p.m. on Mondays; noon on Tuesdays; and 10 a.m. on all other days of the week; and from Monday, May 31, 2004, and for the remainder of the 108th Congress, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be noon on Mondays, 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; and 9 a.m. on all other days of the week.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS—STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 349) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 349

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House

of Representatives on Tuesday, January 20, 2004, at 9 p.m., for the purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAKING IN ORDER MORNING HOURS DEBATE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during the remainder of the 108th Congress:

(1) on legislative days of Monday when the House convenes pursuant to House Resolution 488, the House shall convene 90 minutes earlier than the time otherwise established by that resolution solely for the purpose of conducting morning-hour debate;

(2) on legislative days of Tuesday when the House convenes pursuant to House Resolution 488:

(a) before May 31, 2004, the House shall convene for morning-hour debate 90 minutes earlier than the time otherwise established by that resolution; and (b) after May 31, 2004, the House shall convene for morning-hour debate 1 hour earlier than the time otherwise established by that resolution;

(3) on legislative days of Tuesday after May 31, 2004, when the House convenes for morning-hour debate pursuant to a separate order of the House, the House shall resume its session 90 minutes after such convening;

(4) the time for morning-hour debate shall be limited to 30 minutes allocated to each party (except that on Tuesdays after May 31, 2004, a 1-hour period shall be limited to 25 minutes allocated to each party and may not continue beyond 10 minutes before the hour appointed for the resumption of the session of the House); and

(5) the form of proceeding to morning-hour debate shall be as follows:

the prayer by the Chaplain, the approval of the Journal, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag shall be postponed until resumption of the session of the House; initial and subsequent recognitions for debate shall alternate between the parties; recognition shall be conferred by the Speaker only pursuant to lists submitted by the Majority leader and by the Minority leader; no Member may address the House for longer than 5 minutes, except the Majority leader, the Minority leader, or the Minority whip; and following morning-hour debate, the Chair shall declare a recess pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I until the time appointed for the resumption of the session of the House.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

GRANTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE PRIVILEGE TO EXTEND REMARKS AND INCLUDE EXTRANEOUS MATERIAL IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 108TH CONGRESS

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that for the remainder of the 108th Congress, all Members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material within the permitted limit in that section of the RECORD entitled "Extensions of Remarks."

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON TOMORROW

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with tomorrow.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. NANCY PELOSI, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, December 16, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2001 (P.L. 106-398), I hereby reappoint Ms. Carolyn Bartholomew of the District of Columbia, for a two-year term that expires December 31, 2005, to the United States-China Review Commission. Her current one-year term expires December 31, 2003.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. NANCY PELOSI, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
December 16, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 214(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15344), I hereby appoint Willie L. Brown, Jr. of San Francisco, California to the Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors. Mr. Brown is appointed for a 2 year term.

Best Regards,

NANCY PELOSI.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF OF STAFF OF HON. THOMAS ALLEN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from Jacqueline Potter, Chief of Staff of the Honorable THOMAS ALLEN, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 11, 2003.

Hon. DENNIS J. HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a civil subpoena for deposition testimony issued by the Superior Court for Cumberland County, Maine.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

JACQUELINE POTTER,
Chief of Staff.

COMMUNICATION FROM SENIOR FIELD REPRESENTATIVE OF HON. THOMAS ALLEN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from John McLaughlin, Senior Field Representative of the Honorable THOMAS ALLEN, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 11, 2003.

Hon. DENNIS J. HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a civil subpoena for deposition testimony issued by the Superior Court for Cumberland County, Maine.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

JOHN McLAUGHLIN,
Senior Field Representative.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF OF STAFF OF HON. THOMAS ALLEN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from Jacqueline Potter, Chief of Staff of the Honorable THOMAS ALLEN, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 17, 2003.

Hon. DENNIS J. HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a civil subpoena for documents issued by the Superior Court for Cumberland County, Maine.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance

with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

JACQUELINE POTTER,
Chief of Staff.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF HON. JOE BARTON OF TEXAS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from Ron Wright, District Director of the Honorable JOE BARTON of Texas, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 31, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony issued by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely yours,

RON WRIGHT,
District Director.

COMMUNICATION FROM LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from Anthony Reed, Legislative Director of the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 9, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY REED,
Legislative Director.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY PRESIDENT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, your committee on the part of the House to join a like committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has been assembled and is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make has performed that duty.

The President asked us to report that he will be pleased to deliver his message at 9 p.m. tonight to a joint session of the two Houses.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Chair desires to make an announcement.

After consultation with the Majority and Minority leaders, and with their consent and approval, the Chair announces that tonight when the two Houses meet in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the Chair feels that the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor, and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint session by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 1-minute speech requests.

□ 1245

SUCSESSES OF 2003

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, over the last year, our Nation has experienced extraordinary successes. The American military has fought a victorious battle in Iraq to overthrow one of history's most despotic regimes and are continuing today to protect the American people in the war on terror. Thanks to their valor, the world is safer knowing that Saddam Hussein is no longer a threat.

In the last year, as our economy struggled to work its way back out of recession, Congress brought tax relief to American families and businesses at the right time to get this economy moving again. In the past few months, stock markets are up, jobs have increased and our GDP has soared.

We were also successful in bringing prescription drug coverage to our seniors, health savings plans to restore hope in the future of Medicare, and we brought further reforms to education to ensure our children receive the best chance for success.

Tonight we will hear our President's State of the Union address, and while we face challenges ahead, the President has many successes to celebrate over the last year.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, a constituent in my district named Virginia received something very special this Christmas. The gift, if we could call it that, came directly from the Bush White House and the Republican leadership. Pretty impressive. It arrived on December 23 and stayed through the holidays. It was a notice saying her extended unemployment benefits would end soon. Merry Christmas, Virginia. Eighty-two thousand other Washington residents face the same fate in the first 6 months of this year.

It does not matter whether there is money in the account or there is a jobless recovery underway, we realize last month we got 20 jobs in the State of Washington, 1,000 in the whole country. Virginia and thousands of other average Americans will remember this Christmas for a long time as the Christmas when she was forgotten by the Republican leadership and the White House.

Tonight, the President will be upbeat. I just gave my colleagues the State of the Union in one household in my district. Virginia is anything but upbeat. She is frightened, she is angry. She calls it unconscionable. We ought to call it disgraceful.

I call upon the President and the Republican leadership to recognize the ordinary Americans and support them by immediately passing an extension of unemployment benefits. Eighty-two thousand people in my State will remember.

THE PRESIDENT'S POLICIES

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, tonight President Bush will offer his optimistic vision for our great Nation.

President Bush has been a remarkably strong leader in trying times. He inherited an economy headed into recession and took very bold action. He cut taxes for every American and softened the blow of tough economic times. He extended prescription drug benefits and coverage to our Nation's seniors who depend on Medicare. He was faced with unprecedented terrorist attacks that threatened our freedom. He did not sit back. He did not appease, as some have advocated. Instead, he took the fight to the terrorists, and America now has the initiative in the war on terror.

The President's policies are getting America back to work. His policies will further grow our economy and create jobs. His policies will expand edu-

cational opportunities for our children. His policies will work to ensure that quality health care is available to every American.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of our great President and look forward to hearing his positive views for our Nation this evening.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I could care less about the moon. I want a job. That was said to me by an electrician during our recess. He is one of 1,200 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in the metropolitan Detroit area out of work. He is one of 8.9 million Americans, and there are another 4 million Americans not classified as unemployed but who are out of work.

The long-term unemployed in this country reached a 20-year high in November, but this House and the President have refused to extend Federal benefits. They expired December 20.

Ninety thousand people run out of State benefits every week. In this country, America, Americans deserve more than continued silence from the President of the United States. Let us hope he speaks to this issue tonight.

KASHMIR

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I recently returned from a trip to Pakistan and India.

I would like to commend Prime Minister Vajpayee of India and President Musharraf of Pakistan for the ceasefire in Kashmir and for their courageous leadership and peaceful dialogue in addressing an issue of deep importance to both nations.

During my visit, I had the privilege of visiting a camp for internally displaced people in Azad Kashmir. The suffering that the people on both sides of the Line of Control have endured is horrific: land mines, bombings, deliberate rape of women and other human rights violations, all this in the midst of a land of great beauty.

It is time for the tragic suffering to end. All sides in the conflict need to immediately cease using rape as a weapon of war. All sides need to allow children to receive an education. Until the issue of Kashmir is resolved peacefully, the stability, security and economic viability of South Asia and the international community are at risk.

I urge the U.S. government to fully support the current positive steps between Pakistan and India to bring a peaceful end to this long-running conflict.

THE PRESIDENT'S BIG IDEA

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. Happy New Year. Welcome back.

Last year, the President's advisers decided that in 2004 the President was going to talk about big ideas. Good, that is what Presidents are supposed to do, but then the President decided what we ought to do is go to the moon and Mars and cost the taxpayers \$1 trillion. We have explored the moon in 1969 and 1970. It is a rock. We have seen pictures of Mars. It is also a rock.

It seems to me the big idea is to help the working families in America. This economy has lost 3 million jobs under President George Bush. Two million workers have been unemployed for more than 6 months; 1.4 million workers have exhausted their unemployment benefits but still have not found work.

A big idea would be to put people to work like Franklin Roosevelt did. Another big idea would be to provide health insurance for all 41 million Americans who do not have health insurance. Health insurance costs for those who have it are rising, and pretty soon more people will not have it. That would be a big idea. Health insurance. Funding medical research to fight cancer and AIDS and ending poverty and hunger would be big ideas that we ought to be pursuing in the 21st century.

Instead, when the President's big idea is to go to Mars, it seems to me he has lost contact with the American people. Democrats have big ideas, making America a better place in which to live.

THE PRIORITIES OF AMERICA

(Mr. BELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am deeply concerned with the state of our Union. I share the concern of many that we are heading in the wrong direction in this country.

We need to focus on creating jobs, but tonight we will hear about extending tax cuts for the rich in a mythical economic recovery that has created no new jobs. We need to focus on protecting Social Security and Medicare for a new generation, but tonight we will only hear about a thinly disguised plan to dismantle those vital programs and place our sacred covenant with America into the hands of corporations and pharmaceutical companies seeking profit at the expense of working men and women.

Tonight, we will hear more empty promises on education and literacy when we should focus on the President's own No Child Left Behind program which he and the Republican Congress continue to refuse to fully

fund. As a result, we are leaving millions of children behind every day.

It is all about priorities, Mr. Speaker. Creating more jobs, access to affordable health care and better education for our children, those are the priorities of America, and they should be our priorities here in Congress.

HONORING U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SPECIALIST MICHAEL G. MIHALAKIS

(Ms. LOFGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, as I rise today, over 500 Americans have lost their lives in the war in Iraq. Each loss is a wrenching tragedy to a family somewhere in America, and this tragic loss has now come to the Mihalakis family in San Jose, California.

U.S. Army National Guard Specialist Michael G. Mihalakis of San Jose, California, was killed the day after Christmas when his Humvee overturned near the Baghdad International Airport. He was assigned to the 270th Military Police Company and was one of the youngest casualties of the Iraq conflict. Michael was proud to be a soldier, with a strong commitment to service, an unflinching bravery, a dedication to family, and a deep love of country.

America remains strong and free because, for generations, Americans like Michael have been willing to put the well-being of their community and country ahead of their personal comfort and safety. From towns and cities all over America, ordinary citizens have become transformed into heroes through their service.

There is aching loss and pain when such heroism means the hero is not coming home. This wrenching loss can never really be healed for the mothers and fathers who have given what is most precious to them for their country. We want to thank the Mihalakis family and let them know they are in our hearts and prayers and that his grateful country will always remember their son.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I want to thank Michael for his service to the United States and offer heartfelt condolences to his parents and entire family.

REAL IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the State of the Union will be an opportunity for the President to push his issues and to explain to the American people how we can work together.

I think there is no doubt that there are those of us who understand that this Nation was first built on the opportunities for immigrants to come and to seek, if you will, a better life.

We do need real immigration reform in this Nation, but I am disappointed and saddened by the offering of the President of which I have said this is not an amnesty plan, and so I defend him from the perspective that this is a first step of recognizing the needs for immigration reform, but we really need to focus on earned access to legalization for those millions of immigrants who are here paying taxes, working every day and wanting to provide for their family and to get in line to be able to earn their right to be a citizen of the United States of America.

What happens to a guest worker program? It literally disappears into the night because when the program ends after 3 years, there is some suggestion that these individuals will go home. They will not.

Mr. President, work with this Congress, work with the Democrats in a bipartisan way to lift up the values of this Nation, that we are a land of immigrants, to allow the immigrants that are here to get into the system of earned access to legalization.

THE DRUG COVERAGE BILL

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, President Bush, in his State of the Union a year ago, said, "Medicare is the binding commitment of a caring society." He then promised a prescription drug/Medicare reform bill.

The gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the Republican chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, one of the authors of the bill with the Bush administration, said, "to those who say this bill would end Medicare as we know it, our answer is we certainly hope so."

□ 1300

I wish President Bush tonight would explain what happened to the Medicare bill that he signed in December. I wish he would explain that this legislation will mean \$139 billion, that is with a "B," \$139 billion additional profits for the drug industry. I wish he would explain tonight to the American people why this Medicare privatization bill means \$14 billion in extra payouts to the HMOs and to the insurance companies. And I wish he would explain to the American people why he let in to write this bill the drug industry and the insurance industry, which sat down with the administration, with Republican leadership and actually wrote the Medicare prescription drug privatization bill. We need answers tonight, Mr. Speaker.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA VOTING RIGHTS RESTORATION ACT

(Mr. ROHRABACHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend

his remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I have just introduced the District of Columbia Voting Rights Restoration Act, a bill to restore full and equal congressional voting rights, including representation in the United States Senate, for the residents of the District of Columbia.

My bill would restore the Federal rights of Maryland citizenship that were taken away from the District of Columbia residents over 200 years ago by an Act of Congress, the Organic Act of 1801. Enactment of my bill would mean that D.C. residents would once again have the full Federal voting rights they enjoyed as Maryland citizens prior to Congress' assumption of exclusive legislative authority over the District of Columbia. Those rights included the right to vote for and to be elected as and to serve as U.S. senators, U.S. representatives and presidential electors from Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle not to let small national political considerations stop us from restoring these rights, and I would also insert the questions and answers about my bill that I am putting on the desk today as part of the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for all Members of Congress, whether Republican or Democrat, conservative or liberal, to heed the legitimate complaints of "taxation without representation." We must correct this 200-year-old injustice to the U.S. citizens who live in our nation's capital. The debate must no longer be about whether D.C. residents should have full voting rights in Congress, but how to accomplish a goal that we all share.

Question. Since the VRRRA includes D.C. as part of the Maryland delegation in the U.S. House, what is to keep the Maryland legislature from splitting D.C. and joining it with two or more Maryland congressional districts?

Answer. The VRRRA would require that whenever D.C. has fewer people than the average Maryland congressional district, D.C. be kept intact in a single congressional district, with contiguous territory from adjacent Maryland counties added as necessary to produce a district equal in population to the other Maryland districts. The VRRRA also provides that whenever D.C.'s population is equal to or larger than the average Maryland district, then there must be at least one district that is 100% D.C.

The controlling Supreme Court opinion in *Oregon v. Mitchell* (the 18-year-old vote case) made clear that Congress has the power to regulate congressional redistricting by state legislatures. Congress has exercised this power in prohibiting at-large districts in states with more than one House member. In this case, Congress would protect D.C. from unfair treatment because D.C. residents would have no voice in the Maryland legislature.

Question. Does the Constitution allow D.C. residents who do not actually live in Maryland to choose the representatives of that state? If it were constitutional to treat D.C. residents as if they were residents of the state of Maryland for the purposes of voting, would D.C. residents be constitutionally precluded from representing the new Maryland district, given the language of Article I specifically requiring that representatives be

inhabitants of the state in which they are chosen?

Answer. In addition to restoring congressional voting rights, the VRRRA also restores Maryland citizenship rights to be a candidate for, and to serve as, U.S. Representative, U.S. Senator, and presidential elector from Maryland.

D.C. is one of several federal enclaves in which the residents were not considered to be "inhabitants" of the states that ceded such enclaves to the federal government. There is no reason why Congress is any more powerless to restore the right of D.C. residents to be considered inhabitants of Maryland for federal electoral purposes than it was powerless to restore the rights of residents of other federal enclaves to be considered an inhabitant of the states, including Maryland, that ceded their place of residence to the federal government.

Question. Because representation in the Electoral College is based on the number of Senators and Representatives in the states, wouldn't Maryland receive only one more electoral vote to correspond with the new district? If so, and the District's three reliably Democratic electoral votes were eliminated, wouldn't the result be to tilt the votes in the Electoral College in favor of a Republican presidential candidate?

Answer. The VRRRA add one electoral vote to Maryland's total, and would eliminate D.C.'s current three electoral votes to eliminate double counting. Depending on how Maryland and D.C. vote, that would result in either a net pickup of 8 or a net loss of 2 electoral votes for Democrats, with a small possibility of changing the result one way or the other. It's also possible that the D.C. votes for Members of Congress provided by VRRRA could swing control of the House and Senate to the Democrats. The small risks involved for each political party are a reasonable tradeoff for correcting the 200-year-old injustice of depriving D.C. residents of congressional representation.

Question. Shouldn't a bill creating two new House seats for D.C. and Utah have a clause that the bill is not severable, meaning if the D.C. portion of the bill were found to be unconstitutional, the Utah portion also would fall?

Answer. Yes; the VRRRA has such a non-severability clause.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Chair will recognize Members for Special Orders until 5 p.m., at which time the Chair will declare the House in recess.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

JOBS AND ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in April 2003, the Bush administration pledged that its jobs and growth package, its Leave No Millionaire Behind Tax Cut Plan, would create 1,836,000 new jobs by the end of 2003, last month. The administration pledged to create 5.5 million new jobs this year in 2004; but as the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported this month, the economy had a grand total of 1,000 jobs in December. To begin reversing unemployment trends, there would need to be 250,000 new jobs each month.

More than 2.3 million jobs have been lost since President Bush took office, Mr. Speaker. More than 2.3 million jobs. In my State of Ohio, one out of six manufacturing jobs has disappeared, one out of six, and most of them permanently. Despite recent good news for corporate profits and the trumpeting of the Bush administration on economic growth statistics, the labor market is still in crisis; and we have seen the worst job loss in a recovery since Herbert Hoover in the Great Depression. But for some reason, I guess political reasons, the administration calls the economy strong.

Long-term unemployment is close to a 20-year high. Currently, the average length of unemployment is 5 months. While the administration has touted macroeconomic GDP growth numbers, indicators most important to middle class Americans just simply are not so bright. Simply put, high-paying jobs, industrial, manufacturing jobs are being replaced by low-paying jobs like Wal-Mart. New jobs created are forecast to pay an average of \$35,000, much lower than the \$43,000 average pay of jobs lost in the last 3 years.

The Bush administration now is deploying an executive agency to short-change average workers, this time on overtime pay. The Department of Labor's publishing documents "suggest ways that employers can avoid paying overtime to some of the \$1.3 million low-income workers who would become eligible this year." Think about that, a Federal agency is giving advice to employers on how to avoid paying overtime to some of its lowest-paid workers. Think about that. Among the options for employers would be to cut workers' hourly wages and add the overtime to equal the original salary.

This is part of an emerging pattern of using U.S. taxpayer resources to help big business, to help them cut corners at the expense of American jobs and American workers. The Labor Department's corporate assistance documents, as we call them, come just as the administration plans to eliminate overtime pay protection to 8 million American workers. The overtime plan was opposed by both conservative and progressive lawmakers on Capitol Hill. The Department of Labor's mission statement describes itself as the primary agency to "promote the welfare of job seekers and wage earners."

The Department of Labor was established to represent the interest of average workers, not the interest of corporate contributors to the President. Not Enron. Not Halliburton. The Department of Labor is there to represent average everyday salaried and hourly workers. The Department of Labor now seems to represent corporations at the expense of American workers.

The consequences of the Bush administration's policies for hardworking Americans are clear: first, the greatest job loss in a recovery since the Great Depression; 2.5 million jobs have been lost in the past 2½ years. Second, massive deficits to pass on to our children. The administration came into office with a huge budget surplus. It has been squandered. We now have an annual deficit of \$500 billion. That means that every day of the year about \$1.5 billion more is paid out by the government than is brought in. The President has added \$1.5 billion every day to the national debt that our children will pay. This collapse of fiscal discipline will lead to a \$5 trillion debt over the next decade. That is \$5 trillion more for our children and our grandchildren to pay.

The third result of the Bush administration's policy for working Americans is the rising numbers of uninsured and increasing health care costs for working Americans. There are 43 million Americans lacking basic health insurance today, with 4 million more Americans who do not have health insurance than those that had it when he took office. There were 39 million uninsured when President Bush took office; now it is up to 43 million, and it is climbing as we lose more industrial jobs, jobs replaced by low-benefit, low-wage jobs instead.

This administration is steering the country down the path of fiscal ruin for the benefit of a wealthy few. It is time to right our course. When we see the statistics over Christmas that the high-end stores like Neiman Marcus stores did very well, and regular stores catering to ordinary average Americans did not do so very well, that tells the story. The wealthier in this country are getting wealthier and wealthier, while the middle class is shrinking. Poor people are doing worse than ever. It is time to redirect this country.

HONORING AARON WEAVER, A FALLEN HERO IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with a very heavy heart that I rise today to express the condolences of a grateful Nation. I rise today so that this Nation will not forget the service and sacrifice of those fallen heroes who fight to keep us free. I rise today because a Black Hawk helicopter was shot down over Iraq; and Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Weaver,

one of our Nation's finest, died in the crash.

Aaron Weaver was a husband, a father, a brother, and a son; but he was also a fighter. In Iraq, Aaron was fighting to protect our country's way of life while fighting for his own life as well. You see, Aaron Weaver was a cancer survivor. He was still being treated when his unit was called to duty in Iraq. Aaron had a choice to stay, but he elected to fight for the country that he loved. Aaron was on the way to have his blood tested for cancer when the Black Hawk he was riding in was shot down, killing all on board.

We know well our freedom could not have been won nor our liberty maintained without those willing to make this ultimate sacrifice. But I know these are weak words to the grieving family left behind. I pray the Lord will maintain their memory of Aaron and assuage their pain. Aaron survived the battles in Mogadishu, he fought cancer, and was engaged in a great and noble cause in Iraq. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring a true American hero.

Last Saturday, I attended services for Aaron. He lived in Citrus County, and his father still resides there. The whole family was there. They are a military family, a very, very devoted military family, and a very close family who all grieved the loss of Aaron. I would like to paraphrase his widow's comments. His widow is Nancy Weaver, and she made a comment that Aaron's life, the loss of his life, will not be in vain if children in America can live safely; if his children and every other child in America can live without fear of another attack like 9-11.

Mr. Speaker, Aaron Weaver truly was a modern American hero, and we are grateful for his service and the service of all the men and women who are serving our country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MEEK of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CALIFORNIA AND THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, tonight when President Bush begins to talk about the state of the Union, I hope that he includes remarks that will address the plight of the people that I represent in my district.

On the economy, the President will probably talk about how our country is coming out of a recession, and in some parts of my district the recession has been there for 3 years. In fact, in at least two areas I represent, in East Los Angeles, the unemployment rate is still above 9 percent. In the city of

South El Monte, neighboring the community I live by, which is about 70 percent Latino, I would say the recession has not gone home. It is there. It is 9 percent.

Over 60,000 Californians in my State have exhausted their Federal unemployment benefits and another 340,000 Californians will lose those benefits in the next 4 months alone. Long-term unemployment is at a 20-year high. President Bush claimed that the \$330 billion so-called jobs through tax cuts would help create 5.5 million new jobs by the end of 2004 or 306,000 a month. The thousand jobs added to the economy in December left the Nation 305,000 short of the Bush job promise in that month alone.

Grocery workers in the State of California, 70,000, are right now on strike. They have no employment and no unemployment insurance, these families that we are talking about, not just people that have somehow disregarded their employment status. Many are women with children who are faced with having to go to food lines and go seeking other types of assistance because our State will not even provide them with unemployment insurance. The grocery strike is a part of a larger debate on health care and wages going on in this country; and these workers, and workers around the country, are fighting for fair and livable wages and for health care benefits that will allow them to ensure health care for their families.

On homeland security, at a time when we are susceptible to being attacked now more than ever, we are seeing more cutbacks in our local government enforcement of law enforcement and firefighters. In my district, people are telling me that they no longer have the support to continue to work overtime. And every time that red alert or orange alert goes on, there is a lack of money, of sufficient funds to provide for the kind of coverage that we all believe that we should have.

□ 1315

In health care, the President's Medicaid block grant proposal jeopardizes the future of the Medicaid program for millions and millions of low-income families and children. At a time when States like California are facing growing budget deficits, Medicaid reform proposals must focus on strengthening health care coverage and the safety net for our Nation's most vulnerable. Block granting Medicaid will force States to ration care by limiting the number of people who can enroll in those programs. It will reduce services and will increase the amount of money that low-income people must pay. Medicaid provides health coverage to one in six Americans, more than one-fifth of the Nation's children and their future must be the responsibility of this government.

With respect to racial and ethnic minority groups in the U.S., they continue to suffer poor health care. Their

outcomes are not good. In fact, the risk for type II diabetes among Latinos is almost twice that for non-Latinos. Eliminating these disparities requires a commitment on the part of the Federal Government to ensure that the needs of minority communities are being heard.

On education, how can schools, teachers and students be expected to meet the high standards of the No Child Left Behind Act when the President refuses to fully fund this initiative? At a time when in my home State of California, the education budget is threatened by a cut of \$2 billion, it is unfair to place this additional burden upon our children and our parents in California.

On the environment, Republicans continue to protect the wealthy corporate interests and bend over backwards to manipulate our environmental regulations to profit their allies. The health of our children and families is threatened. We should not sacrifice clean air, clean water, our most precious natural resources, and, most importantly, the health of our families.

With respect to Iraq and our veterans, the capture of Saddam Hussein was a great victory for our troops. However, we have a lot more to do. The war is not over. Our real enemy has not been captured. For example, over 500 soldiers have been killed in Iraq, with 372 of them since the President declared the end of major combat in Iraq. At this time of conflict we are reminded every day that our soldiers' sacrifices should not be taken in vain. Although we have lost a significant number of soldiers, a lot more, approximately 2,900, have been wounded in combat or disabled. Furthermore, these numbers mask the true impact of our wounded and fallen soldiers.

We need to do more. President Bush must encourage the Republican Party to keep their promise to our troops and to our country.

HEARTLAND FIRES ARE BURNING ON EVE OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this evening the President will address this Congress and America. Tomorrow morning he will travel to northwest Ohio, the region in which I reside and represent. Ohio's snow-covered fields and towns this time of year give a placid impression, but they mask the fire that is burning inside the homes that dot the real Ohio that the President will not visit. It really is too bad. Air Force One will pass over most of us in northern Ohio on Wednesday morning, tomorrow.

Sealed off from the general public in a tight security bubble, the President will land at an airfield and travel by

interstate as highway patrol and sheriff's deputies close overpasses and hold people back in half-mile cordons. The President will not see them. The dutiful national press corps, with credentials issued by the White House, will be subjected to a similar fate, never meeting the folks who really live there. The motorcade will lock in its guests, ushering them to Owens College, where tuition has just been hiked by 9 percent. An invitation-only audience will await. The White House is staging photo ops and messages less than 6 weeks before Ohio's primary on March 2. But taxpayers and not the President's brimming campaign coffers are paying for Air Force One on this visit to the heartland in Ohio.

So let this message go forth. The President has the worst jobs record since the Great Depression and Herbert Hoover: 2.7 million Americans are jobless. In December, only 1,000 new net jobs were created nationwide. 300,000 Ohioans are out of work. Their unemployment benefits and health insurance are evaporating. College tuition across our State is skyrocketing. The average graduate ends up a debtor with \$17,000 in debt as they begin their careers. 1,300,000 Ohioans have lost their health insurance, nearly 80,000 more than when this President assumed office. Since 2001, another 167,000 of Ohio's manufacturing jobs have disappeared. High tech, ballyhooed to have been our salvation, has been on a precipitous decline with hardware and software jobs being outsourced to India and China.

America and Ohio are being emptied of our wealth-producing jobs. Our trade deficit is at record levels. In 2003, imports exceeded exports by \$484 billion. NAFTA has hurt us deeply. These are not just numbers. These are people. Each billion dollars in trade deficit costs us 20,000 jobs. Hoover in Canton is gone, as is Dixon Ticonderoga in Sandusky and Acuity Lighting in Vermillion which is closing; Campbell Soup in Sidney; GE in Bucyrus; Good-year Tire in Greenville; Honeywell in Elyria; International Paper in Cincinnati; Lucent Technology in Columbus; Mr. Coffee in Glenwillow; Philips Electronics in Ottawa; and now Electrolux just across the border in Michigan.

When the President visited our region on September 6, 2001, I respectfully handed him a letter on Air Force One inviting him and President Fox to travel with me to meet the thousands of workers in Ohio who were losing their jobs to NAFTA and their Mexican counterparts who are also sliding backwards. He never bothered to answer. I mentioned this to him at the White House Christmas party that year and asked him about a reply. He winked and joked, and this is a quote: "The letter must have gotten lost in the shuffle." He did not ask for another.

Is it any wonder the heartland fires are burning? The trade deficit is not mashed potatoes. Jobs lost to Mexico, China and India drag down our Nation's

economic growth by nearly a third and every year of the Bush presidency it has worsened. The President will speak in Wood County, Ohio's largest corn-producing county, and my hope is he will urge new ethanol and biodiesel production to offset rising petroleum imports from foreign countries. They equal 60 percent of what our Nation consumes, the highest ever.

As gas prices in northwest Ohio just topped \$1.65 per gallon and the per barrel cost of oil now at over \$35 per barrel, do we not want America to transition to energy independence? Since 50 cents of every farm dollar earned today is Federal subsidy, what a gigantic job-creating gift the President could give to Ohio and to America by helping launch us on energy independence.

Mr. Speaker, when the fires burn in the heartland, we know America will feel the heat.

Since 50 cents of every farm dollar earned today is federal subsidy, let's put it to work to remedy the nation's chief strategic vulnerability—reliance on imported crude, a key component of our trade deficit. Promoting bio-fuel independence would create vast numbers of new jobs here at home, far more than Mars exploration or the billions being spent for Iraq rebuilding.

Ohio is plagued by deficits due to the poor economy. Declining revenues have used the state to raise taxes—fuel taxes, sales taxes, cigarette taxes, property taxes. Whatever federal tax relief the Bush Administration might have envisioned has been eaten up by rising state taxes. Even with Mrs. Bush's Reading campaign, our local libraries suffered state cutbacks, had to close down services, and were forced to seek a local levy to sustain normal hours.

The public sector isn't the only pressure point either. Ohio bankruptcies broke a record with over 10,500 last year, and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp just announced a troubling \$11.2 billion deficit threatening the solvency of our nation's private retirement plans. This is serious indeed.

Each year of the Bush Presidency, his budgets have ballooned the federal deficit. 2003 goes down as the worst red ink in history!

The bipartisan Concord Coalition calls the Bush budgets the "most irresponsible" ever. Our national debt has now broken \$7 trillion, and we are adding \$2.03 billion to the debt each day. This poor management threatens the long-term solvency of Social Security and Medicare.

The International Monetary Fund has warned that these net financial obligations, heavily floated through borrowing from foreign countries, pose "significant risk for the U.S. and the world." The U.S. economy as a whole will end up paying 40 percent of its total earnings in a few years, to pay interest on this "unprecedented level of external debt for a large industrial country."

It doesn't have to be this way.

For 8 years, Congress and President Bill Clinton labored to balance annual budgets, on a track to pay down the long-term debt.

Now the President will come to Northern Ohio to talk about jobs and a \$120 million national new job training initiative. Irony since Ohio, due to abysmal Republican manage-

ment in Columbus, still has failed to obligate \$242 million in job training and transition funds for which I have voted, the second-most of any state in the nation. Ohio is under watch and being fined for poor performance in federal job training efforts. These dollars were meant to help unemployed workers gain a foothold in this economy. I hope that during his visit, this President will join me in my efforts to recapture these funds for Ohio's workers despite an inept State government. Ohio's workers could use his help.

In Ohio, we are grateful to be a battleground state in Election 2004. Ohioans seek good jobs with good wages; health and retirement benefits that can't be taken away; affordable education for youth; and prescription drugs under Medicare for seniors. We seek respect for veterans, in theatre and afterwards fiscal responsibility and energy independence.

Every citizen must ask the question in this Presidential election year: Am I, and America, better off now than we were four years ago?

When the fires burn in the heartland, we know America will feel the heat.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OREGON ISSUES AND THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, the most important thing the President can tell Oregonians tonight is what he will do to improve our struggling economy. All Oregonians hope for an improved economy that creates new and high-wage jobs. But the President must not let his hopes and expectations for future economic growth blind him to the current plight of the thousands of Oregonians who are out of work today. The unemployment rate in Oregon is a shocking 7.2 percent. But this is not a naked statistic. This is people losing their homes, losing their health care, losing their ability to send their children to college and a better future.

I was on our solid light rail system recently and I met a gentleman who came up to me and said, "Congressman, I have two master's degrees and I have been working in high technology for almost 20 years. But I've been without work for 18 months and I've lost access to unemployment benefits." To show compassion for that man, Oregonians and Americans across this country, the President must and should call for an immediate extension of unemployment benefits. For unemployed Oregonians, it is these benefits that keep their kids in college and prevent the loss of a home, a car or vital access to health care.

Too many Oregonians know the heartbreak of a jobless economic recovery. To create new, high-paying jobs,

we need investment in Main Street as well as Wall Street. I have sponsored legislation to give small businesses incentives to invest and grow, and I hope that the President will tell us tonight how all Americans can prosper together and not just the large corporations and the fortunate who are their shareholders.

Mr. Speaker, the key to economic success begins with education. The President needs to keep his promise to truly leave no child behind by committing tonight to providing the resources that America needs to have the best public school system in the world. Also, we must make college affordability a national priority. Recent tuition increases have put college out of reach for too many Oregon and American families. I will be working on the Committee on Education and the Workforce to make college more affordable and accessible.

In closing, we must work together to address the most important issues facing our Nation, extending unemployment benefits, investing in Main Street small businesses, and providing the best education possible to all Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LEVIN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. McDERMOTT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STATE OF OUR UNION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to discuss what I hope President Bush will address this evening in his State of the Union message. Specifically, Mr. Speaker, I would like to place President Bush's speech in some context which I believe America should use in evaluating the President's address.

We can all agree that the President will give a good speech. He has prac-

ticed, he has rehearsed and he will do a good job. However, I hope that his rhetoric will match actions that will benefit all Americans and benefit all Americans soon. It was just last year that the President stood in this hallowed hall and set forth a number of priorities that were to guide this Nation throughout 2003. I, along with the rest of the Nation, listened very intently to the President searching for some affirmation in his speech of the principles that have successfully guided our constitutional democracy thus far. The Founding Fathers of the United States understood that governments are instituted to secure the God-given rights of all men and women to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In 1976, the late Senator Hubert Humphrey said, "The moral test of government is how it treats those who are at the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those who are in the shadow of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped."

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this administration has miserably failed that test. As stewards of the government, we have a moral responsibility to ensure that the poor are granted the same access to opportunity as the rich; the sick are afforded the medical attention needed to restore health; and that the scourge of racism and discrimination is forever dispelled from our national identity.

Mr. Speaker, I submit that the true measure of our Union is the state of the least among us. So long as there are 9 million Americans looking for work, 43 million Americans without health insurance and nearly 2.5 million American men, women and children without a place to call home, then America has not reached her full potential. We need leadership that demands equity, parity and equality. We need leadership that is progressive and forward-thinking. And, Mr. Speaker, we need leadership that delivers results to all of the American people.

□ 1330

The American people deserve bold leadership, the demands of frank and honest discussion of the issues that are at the center of people's lives.

Just yesterday, we celebrated the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, and I have noted so often we listen to the "I Have a Dream" speech; but one of the things that he said is that every citizen should demand the full, the full, the full measure of their citizenship. In other words, what he was saying was that this Nation owes every citizen certain rights and at the same time every citizen has a duty and responsibility to this Nation.

Since the President's last State of the Union Address in 2003, our Nation waited in vain, Mr. Speaker, for the President to recognize the importance of liberty, diversity, and charity beyond the superficial context of a speech. Yes, the President is quick to

say that he is compassionate and conservative. As I have said on many occasions, I have seen much of our President's conservatism. So we are long on conservatism, but it appears that we are very short on compassion. Americans look to the President to set forth policies that would transform these lofty ideals into reality for almost 300 million men, women, and children that reside in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, a year later, we see that the President has not yet been able to synchronize his conscience with his conduct. Yes, we have a lot of photo-ops, but the photo-ops do not bring a paycheck to that worker in Baltimore who has been laid off for the past year. It does not bring an insurance policy for health insurance to that mother in Appalachia who has no insurance; nor does it bring the \$7.5 billion to our education system where children need computers, children need books, children need better classroom atmospheres so that they can grow up to be all that God wants them to be.

So it was last year, Mr. Speaker, that the President stood before this Nation, as he will do tonight; and there he announced the new initiative to fight the war against global HIV/AIDS with \$15 billion to the global fund. After years of work by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), my colleague in the Congressional Black Caucus, and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), our health chairperson, and many of my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus urging the Congress to be more proactive in fighting this epidemic, the Congressional Black Caucus applauded the President's effort.

We are very pleased that he had listened to us 3 years ago. By the way, I might add that it was 3 years ago when the President met with the Congressional Black Caucus; but 3 years later after many requests, he refuses, actually refuses to meet with the 39 members of the Congressional Black Caucus who represent over 26 million people, at least a third of whom are white. And it is interesting that he laid a wreath at the Martin Luther King memorial just a few days ago and then turned right around the next day and appointed Judge Pickering from Mississippi, whom, as a matter of fact, every civil rights organization in the country had opposed and he had been opposed by the Congressional Black Caucus; but this President saw fit to appoint a man who had been turned away by the Senate twice.

So we come back to today. A year later we are already underfunding our annual contribution commitment by \$600 million, that is, to the AIDS fund, the global AIDS fund, by \$600 million. It was just this weekend that members of the Congressional Black Caucus met with the U.N. ambassadors from Africa and they talked about how so many of their people are dying; but yet and still, after we agree that \$15 billion should be allocated, we come up \$600

million short in the first year, and they too are asking why are we holding back, because they say as long as we hold back the money, more and more people on that great African continent will die.

Two years ago, Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union Address, President Bush said, "My economic security plan can be summed up in one word: jobs." Yet 2 years later, there are 9 million Americans who woke up this morning without a place of employment. On his watch America has lost nearly 3 million jobs. And I know that he will paint a rosy picture. He will tell us that we have a 5.7 percent unemployment rate. He probably will not mention that African American unemployment is 10.2 percent. He may not mention that in certain areas of our country, like parts of my district, the black male unemployment rate may be as much as 21 or 25 percent. He will not mention that.

He will not mention that over the past month only a thousand jobs were created. He will not mention that. He will mention that the economy seems to be going in the right direction; but he will not mention that we have such a lack of an increase in jobs, and when we think about it, Mr. Speaker, when we are talking about a thousand jobs for 50 States, that means that we have got very few per State. So in all, a total of 14 million American men and women of all ethnicities are unable to feed their families, pay their mortgages, and clothe their children.

The President will not tell us that when he mentions the 5.7 percent that the reason why the number has come down is that so many Americans have become so tired of looking for work. They have been unemployed for so long that they have given up on looking for a job. So he will not tell us that their numbers are not in that 5.7 percent. He will not tell us that.

While the President travels the country boasting about the Nation's economic recovery, he neglects and will neglect to mention these 14 million Americans whose families have yet to recover and remain in a state of financial disrepair.

Mr. Speaker, last year after listening to the President's State of the Union speech, I asked the following question: "Where was the assurance that we will adequately fund legislation to guarantee that every vote will be counted in determining who will lead the Government of the United States?" A year later this question is even more poignant. Just last week students at Prairie View A. & M. University, a historically black college in the President's home State of Texas, marched in protest of their local district attorney's challenge to their fundamental right to vote. It is an affront to democracy that in the year 2004, African Americans are still marching for voting rights, still marching to exercise the very thing that underpins our democracy, still marching, trying to make sure that they are participants in this wonderful

thing we call a democracy, still marching.

Mr. Speaker, if our Nation is to retain the strength that has sustained us in times of war and in times of peace, in times of depression and in times of robust economic growth, then we must redouble our efforts to ensure that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is indeed granted to all. And when I think about life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, one of the greatest things that we can do for any human being is to educate them.

Then I think about FAM U University, another historically black college down in Florida, when I visited there just recently and had students come up to me and ask the question at what point will the Congress get it? At what point will they realize that we have worked so hard to get to college, that our families are making less than \$30,000 a year and we are trying to be the best that we can be? Can we get a little help from the Congress that spends all of this money in Iraq? Can we get a little help? We Americans, who are trying to be the best that we can be, just want to pursue a little happiness so that we can grow up and contribute to this society.

But yet and still, they see the Pell grants leveling off. They see no real increase there. They see their tuitions rising. They work the part-time jobs. They give it all that they have. They try to borrow from Aunt Sally and borrow from Uncle Jim and Momma, but the money simply is not there; and then they find themselves, like the students at Morgan State University, another historically black college where I am on the board of trustees, where we have to actually release some 800 students. Why? Because they simply do not have the money to go to college. Tuition is going up; aid from our Federal Government for our students is going down, when we talk about our hope that the President, when he addresses us tonight, will address the question of how do we support our young, how do we make sure that they rise up to be all that they want to be.

I maintain, Mr. Speaker, that terrorism, by the way, is not the only threat to our democracy. Indifference to the ills of the least among us and denial of basic human rights challenges the foundation upon which this country was built.

Mr. Speaker, this evening I sincerely hope that President Bush will address all the issues which I have outlined this afternoon in a meaningful way. I have heard through newspaper accounts that the President will articulate a plan to insure the uninsured. I certainly hope that this plan will be proactive, realistic, and designed to actually achieve the intended results. I hope that if, in fact, the President does present a plan to insure the uninsured, it will not emulate the Medicare plan that does nothing to make prescription drugs more affordable and will in practice destroy Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, this evening my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and the 9 million, and I repeat that, 9 million unemployed Americans will be listening to the President very closely in expectation of a real plan to create economic growth and, most importantly, jobs. America does not want the President to give lip service to the idea of job creation while lining the pockets of corporate America as he did in his 2002 State of the Union Address. America wants the President to promise to work in a bipartisan manner to enact policies which we know work to create jobs.

Mr. Speaker, just yesterday we lost another 20 soldiers to a bomb in Baghdad. This evening America wants the President to pay homage to the over 500 men and women, brave young men and women, who have lost their lives in Iraq by presenting a plan to create stability in the region and bring our troops safely home. And, finally, Mr. Speaker, on the eve of another Presidential election, the Congressional Black Caucus and the over 130 million registered voters in the United States want the President to make a real commitment, a real commitment, to protect our right to vote and have our votes counted. Americans want to be absolutely certain that when they arrive at the polls on November 2, their vote will be counted. These are our national priorities, Mr. Speaker, that Americans of every color are looking to the President for leadership.

□ 1345

The Congressional Black Caucus will be watching, and waiting to work with the president to strengthen our Nation and to secure the state of our Union.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, once again let me just thank the gentleman from Maryland, the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, for his leadership, and for calling these special orders to discuss the real state of the Union. I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for once again attempting to wake up America.

Today I hope that people listen very carefully to the President as he tells us about his vision of America. I hope that they listen and ask themselves just what America does George Bush see out there? Who gets left behind in his vision, and really just where does it take us?

I want to remind the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and the entire country of what President Bush told us, I believe it was the year before last, in terms of creating the "axis of evil." Then last year he told us that the British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa. Of course, that has been questionable, but it did serve, however, as a very central and very critical piece of the spin campaign that led the country

into war. I must remind you this was last year in the State of the Union that this critical piece of information was put forward. So tonight I hope the country listens very carefully to what the President says.

Of course, in preparation for the upcoming election, the President is again getting ready to tell the Nation something that really should be questioned. According to news reports, the President will declare victory in the fight to provide the Nation's elderly and the disabled with health care. He will point to the Medicare bill that he and the Congressional Republicans pushed through Congress. But there is one small problem: The Medicare bill will not help Medicare, and it will not help seniors. In fact, it is designed really, if you ask me and ask many of us, to do the program in.

He will claim that the economy is surging ahead; but will he talk about the millions of jobs that have been lost during his presidency?

He will talk about homeland security; but will he talk about the insecurity in our ports and elsewhere, about first responders who still lack vital resources? So let us all listen very closely to what he says.

What is the state of the Union today? We have about 130,000 American troops in Iraq, sent there in a preemptive war that we did not have to fight.

We face an economy here at home that has been dominated by tax cuts for the wealthy and job losses for the rest of the country. We have an administration that seems eager to expand these tax cuts for the rich, and just as eager to privatize one of our most successful programs in history, Social Security.

We have a healthcare system marked by disparities and deficiencies which leaves 44 million Americans without any health insurance and which the President seeks to reform, not by expanding benefits for the public for universal health care, but by expanding profits for the insurance industry and the HMOs.

And we have health care problems, including skyrocketing asthma rates, which will only grow worse as the administration erodes fundamental environmental protections such as the Clear Air Act.

That is the real state of the Union: A foreign policy based on preemption, not cooperation; an economy based on tax cuts, not job creation; a health care and retirement system that promotes corporate benefits, not individual care; and an approach to the environment that protects polluters and oil companies, rather than promoting public health or developing alternative energy sources.

How did we get in this situation? We got here really not by accident, but through a series of choices made by the administration and the Republican majority in Congress.

We have to begin this discussion by confronting the question of war. Under-

standing this war and preventing future foreign policy disasters requires us to understand how we got here and to demand answers about the abuse of intelligence in the process so that it never happens again.

Over 500 Americans have died in Iraq. Over 3,000 have been wounded, many of them suffering terrible injuries. We owe it to them and we owe it to the unknown number of Iraqi men, women and children who have been killed to ask how we got there, how we can get out and how we can prevent future tragedies.

This Nation went to war not because we were attacked, not because we were in imminent danger, but because this administration was just determined to do so. They have captured Saddam Hussein, but they have yet to find a single weapon of mass destruction, although the administration told us with absolute certainty last year that there were tens of thousands of them and they were aimed at us.

This war of preemption without justification goes against both American ideals and international law, it has made the world a more dangerous place, and it has carried with it enormous costs in both lives and treasure.

Yesterday, this past weekend, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King knew all about the danger of war and the terrible toll that it exacted here at home. Dr. King said, "In the wasteland of war, the expenditure of resources knows no restraints."

Dr. King said, "A Nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

Mr. Speaker, I think it makes a real mockery out of Dr. King's life to place a wreath at his tomb one day, appoint a segregationist to the Federal bench the next day, and then come forward with a plan for military expenditures that, again, will wreak havoc on the areas in America which need the kind of help that our resources could provide in terms of alleviating poverty and helping young people with their college education. This Nation, the state of this Nation, Mr. Chairman, is approaching, as Dr. King said, spiritual death.

What then would Dr. King say? What would he say about the \$87 billion supplement passed last year, and the fact that the \$87 billion came on top of the \$78 billion that Congress already appropriated for the war, on top of the \$400 billion defense budget? What would he say about the priorities and choices that led to a preemptive war abroad and social and economic distress here at home, for as we confront the war, we must also confront the domestic choices that this administration has made that have led to the present state of our Union.

The economy, health care, Social Security and the environment are all at stake, and, yes, they are all at risk today.

First the economy. This Nation has lost nearly 2.5 million jobs since President Bush took office. That is the worst job creation since Herbert Hoover. Reports indicate that in his address tonight, the President will propose \$120 million, I believe that is what I understand, in new job training grants. That sounds fine. But this President has sought over \$800 million in cuts to job training and vocational education since moving into the oval office.

This same administration has refused, refused, to extend unemployment benefits, at the very moment when millions of Americans are desperately looking for jobs but simply not finding them. Almost 90,000 jobless workers are running out of regular State-funded unemployment benefits each week. As we speak, almost 400,000 Americans are jobless and have no unemployment compensation.

We are all excited about economic growth in the last quarter, but we want to see real economic development, real jobs and real economic opportunities for all Americans, and we want to see poverty rates in America reduced, rather than go forward. We want to see those rates go down. We want to see homelessness conquered; we want to see hungry children fed; we want to see a real commitment to end poverty in the President's State of the Union address tonight.

Secondly, just as the Americans are concerned about the economy, they are deeply and justifiably worried about their health care. We have raging health care disparities in this country that separate black from white, rich from poor, African Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, Latinos, all from the poor, from the middle-class. This really is a national disgrace in the wealthiest country in the world.

Forty-four million Americans have no health insurance. Four million of those have lost their coverage since President Bush took office. Americans who are fortunate enough to have health insurance are not only facing massive premiums hikes, but also live in constant fear of losing their insurance, and those fears, sadly, unfortunately, are warranted.

Minorities have an even greater reason to be insecure and to listen closely to what the President will propose tonight. Minorities are sicker, and when they finally make it to the emergency rooms of this country, they get poorer care. Like the uninsured and the under-cared for, our seniors are also left out of the so-called Bush recovery.

The Medicare bill passed this fall will leave the seniors who have the gravest chronic diseases with the highest out-of-pocket costs. But, again, there are beneficiaries to these policies. The insurance industry, the drug manufacturers and the HMOs, they will make billions.

Thirdly, there is Social Security. This program was one of the great inventions of the 20th century. It has

made enormous differences in the lives of millions and millions of Americans. But the Bush administration seeks to partially privatize this program. The New York Times says this would cost \$100 billion to undertake. It would also make the seniors of tomorrow subject to the whims of the stock market. Privatization presents risks that we cannot afford and that we do not need. We must not dismantle this vital program.

Finally, I cannot leave without addressing what this administration has done and seeks to do to our environment. Like Social Security, environmental protections exist to safeguard all, but this administration has refused to enforce existing laws and has even worked to strip them away, including such absolutely critical protections as the Clean Air Act.

It has failed to create an energy policy that matches the needs of the 21st century. We could be reducing our dependence on foreign oil, fighting global warming and creating new jobs all at the same time, but, instead, this administration subsidizes big oil and big coal, refuses to address concerns such as MTBE, and tells Americans that all the answers to the energy crisis and problems lie in the drilling of the Arctic wilderness.

So the common theme running through all of these domestic policies is that the Bush Administration has signed a contract with corporate America at the expense of the American people. That is the real state of the union today, and it sounds pretty bleak.

In fact, I am pretty optimistic about the future of America, because these things can be fixed. We can forge a foreign policy based on international cooperation that truly enhances our own security. We can get our troops home from Iraq and end the daily news reports that another two or three or 16 Americans have been killed. We can craft domestic policies that create jobs, expand health care, protect Social Security, reduce poverty and safeguard our environment. And, yes, we can invest in health care and education and affordable housing. We can redirect our resources and realign our priorities. We can do better. Dr. King, again, left us a road map of how to do it better.

So tonight, Mr. Chairman, I hope the country listens very carefully to the President's picture that he will paint of the state of the Union and raise some of these very critical questions as we enter this next year, to make certain that his State of the Union is not the state of the Union that we want to see for the American people.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her statement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to a friend of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding. I think that as we prepare for this evening, the necessity of putting

up a minority report on the state of the Union is crucial for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from the Independent, which is a major newspaper in the United Kingdom, called "George W. Bush and the Real State of the Union."

[From the Independent, Jan. 20, 2004]

GEORGE W. BUSH AND THE REAL STATE OF THE UNION

Today the President gives his annual address. As the election battle begins, how does his first term add up?

232: Number of American combat deaths in Iraq between May 2003 and January 2004.

501: Number of American servicemen to die in Iraq from the beginning of the war—so far.

0: Number of American combat deaths in Germany after the Nazi surrender to the Allies in May 1945.

0: Number of coffins of dead soldiers returning home from Iraq that the Bush administration has allowed to be photographed.

0: Number of funerals or memorials that President Bush has attended for soldiers killed in Iraq.

100: Number of fund-raisers attended by Bush or Vice-President Dick Cheney in 2003.

13: Number of meetings between Bush and Tony Blair since he became President.

10 million: Estimated number of people worldwide who took to the streets in opposition to the invasion of Iraq, setting an all-time record for simultaneous protest.

2: Number of nations that Bush has attacked and taken over since coming into the White House.

9.2: Average number of American soldiers wounded in Iraq each day since the invasion in March last year.

1.6: Average number of American soldiers killed in Iraq per day since hostilities began.

16,000: Approximate number of Iraqis killed since the start of war.

10,000: Approximate number of Iraqi civilians killed since the beginning of the conflict.

\$100 billion: Estimated cost of the war in Iraq to American citizens by the end of 2003.

\$13 billion: Amount other countries have committed towards rebuilding Iraq (much of it in loans) as of 24 October.

36%: Increase in the number of desertions from the U.S. army since 1999.

92%: Percentage of Iraq's urban areas that had access to drinkable water a year ago.

60%: Percentage of Iraq's urban areas that have access to drinkable water today.

32%: Percentage of the bombs dropped on Iraq this year that were not precision-guided.

1983: The year in which Donald Rumsfeld gave Saddam Hussein a pair of golden spurs.

45%: Percentage of Americans who believed in early March 2003 that Saddam Hussein was involved in the 11 September attacks on the U.S.

\$127 billion: Amount of U.S. budget surplus in the year that Bush became President in 2001.

\$374 billion: Amount of U.S. budget deficit in the fiscal year for 2003.

1st: This year's deficit is on course to be the biggest in United States history.

\$1.58 billion: Average amount by which the U.S. national debt increases each day.

\$23,920: Amount of each U.S. citizen's share of the national debt as of January 19, 2004.

1st: The record for the most bankruptcies filed in a single year (1.57 million) was set in 2002.

10: Number of solo press conferences that Bush has held since beginning his term. His father had managed 61 at this point in his administration, and Bill Clinton 33.

1st: Rank of the U.S. worldwide in terms of greenhouse gas emissions per capita.

\$113 million: Total sum raised by the Bush-Cheney 2000 campaign, setting a record in American electoral history.

\$130 million: Amount raised for Bush's reelection campaign so far.

\$200 million: Amount that the Bush-Cheney Campaign is expected to raise in 2004.

\$40 million: Amount that Howard Dean, the top fund-raiser among the nine Democratic presidential hopefuls, amassed in 2003.

28: Number of days holiday that Bush took last August, the second longest holiday of any president in U.S. history (Recordholder: Richard Nixon).

13: Number of vacations days the average American worker receives each year.

3: Number of children convicted of capital offenses executed in the U.S. in 2002. America is the only country openly to acknowledge executing children.

1st: As Governor of Texas, George Bush executed more prisoners (152) than any governor in modern U.S. history.

2.4 million: Number of Americans who have lost their jobs during the three years of the Bush administration.

221,000: Number of jobs per month created since Bush's tax cuts took effect. He promised the measure would add 306,000.

1,000: Number of new jobs created in the entire country in December. Analysts had expected a gain of 130,000.

1st: This administration is on its way to becoming the first since 1929 (Herbert Hoover) to preside over an overall loss of jobs during its complete term in office.

9 million: Number of U.S. workers unemployed in September 2003.

80%: Percentage of the Iraqi workforce now unemployed.

55%: Percentage of the Iraqi workforce unemployed before the war.

43.6 million: Number of Americans without health insurance in 2002.

130: Number of countries (out of total of 191 recognized by the United Nations) with an American military presence.

40%: Percentage of the world's military spending for which the U.S. is responsible.

\$10.9 million: Average wealth of the members of Bush's original 16-person cabinet.

88%: Percentage of American citizens who will save less than \$100 on their 2006 Federal taxes as a result of 2003 cut in capital gains and dividends taxes.

\$42,000: Average savings members of Bush's cabinet are expected to enjoy this year as a result of the cuts in capital gains and dividends taxes.

\$42,228: Median household income in the U.S. in 2001.

\$116,000: Amount Vice-President Cheney is expected to save each year in taxes.

44%: Percentage of Americans who believe the President's economic growth plan will mostly benefit the wealthy.

700: Number of people from around the world the U.S. has incarcerated in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

1st: George W. Bush became the first American president to ignore the Geneva Conventions by refusing to allow inspectors access to U.S.-held prisoners of war.

+6%: Percentage change since 2001 in the number of U.S. families in poverty.

1951: Last year in which a quarterly rise in U.S. military spending was greater than the one the previous spring.

54%: Percentage of U.S. citizens who believe Bush was legitimately elected to his post.

1st: First president to execute a federal prisoner in the past 40 years. Executions are typically ordered by separate states and not at federal level.

9: Number of members of Bush's defense policy board who also sit on the corporate

board of, or advise, at least one defense contractor.

35: Number of countries to which U.S. has suspended military assistance after they failed to sign agreements giving Americans immunity from prosecution before the International Criminal Court.

\$300 million: Amount cut from the federal programme that provides subsidies to poor families so they can heat their homes.

\$1 billion: Amount of new U.S. military aid promised Israel in April 2003 to offset the "burdens" of the U.S. war on Iraq.

58 million: Number of acres of public lands Bush has opened to road building, logging and drilling.

200: Number of public-health and environmental laws Bush has attempted to downgrade or weaken.

29,000: Number of American troops—which is close to the total of a whole army division—to have either been killed, wounded, injured or become so ill as to require evacuation from Iraq, according to the Pentagon.

90%: Percent of American citizens who said they approved of the way George Bush was handling his job as president when asked on 26 September, 2001.

53%: Percentage of American citizens who approved of the way Bush was handling his job as president when asked on 16 January, 2004.

□ 1400

This article lists the accomplishments of this administration. We all know we are engaged in a war that the President could not keep us out of; he had to go to war. We have had 501 people die. But what people do not know about is that 40,000 of our troops whose enlistments have ended are being kept in under stop-loss orders. There is a major crisis, and the likelihood of the President talking honestly tonight about what is going on in Iraq and Afghanistan, in my opinion, is zero, because he cannot talk about solving this problem with soldiers if people do not want to reenlist, or enlist for the first time. They are offering \$10,000 to people in Iraq to reenlist while they are in country, and 4,000 people are chafing to get out and go home.

Now, that is a situation that is, I think, undeniable. Worse than that, in the President's rush to go to war, is that when he came into office, he had a \$127 billion surplus. In the first 6 or 8 years I was in the Congress, there was endless talk from the other side about, we have to have a balanced budget amendment. Bill Clinton did it and actually started reducing the debt. Now, in this year, in 2004, the President will pile up a deficit of \$374 billion and counting.

Now, that means in this country, or it explains, perhaps, why we have the record number of the most bankruptcies in a single year: 1.57 million bankruptcies in 2002 under Mr. Bush. He wants to tell us this is a recovery. Well, explain that for me. Mr. Speaker, 2.4 million people have lost their jobs, and 221,000 jobs have been created since all of those tax cuts. He promised over 300,000 last month. We got 1,000 jobs. That is 20 in every State: 20 in Washington, 20 in Maryland, 20 in New York, 20 in California, and so on. Yet, he has not asked for an extension of unem-

ployment benefits. Mr. Speaker, 68,000 people in the next 6 months in the State of Washington will lose their unemployment benefits because the President refuses to ask for an extension of unemployment benefits.

Now, presently, we are spread out across the world: 130 of the 191 countries on the face of the Earth have an American military presence. Forty percent of the world's military expenditures are done by this country. Will the President suggest that Mr. Rumsfeld's office be changed to the Secretary of War? I doubt it. They are going to keep talking about defense. But, in fact, we are making war.

The average income, and this is where the tax cuts are really amazing, the average income of Mr. Bush's cabinet was \$10.9 million. Eighty-eight percent of Americans will save less than \$100 in 2006 as a result of those 2003 tax cuts. The average American makes \$42,000. Vice President CHENEY will save \$116,000 in taxes every year. Remember, \$42,000 is the average salary. The President cut \$300 million from Federal programs that provide subsidies to poor families so they can heat their homes in a cold winter. I wonder if they have turned the heat down over at the White House. Think so? No. He will come and tell us everything is great: the economy is picking up; everybody is doing better. Look at the stock market. One cannot eat the stock market; one has to have a job. And this President has done relatively nothing.

The previous speaker talked about his assault on public health and environmental laws. As a physician, this has been the most disastrous administration in history. Mr. Speaker, 200 separate issues they have undercut, undermined, done away with; and it has all been done on Friday afternoon about 4 o'clock. They come out, they put a little bit in the paper, and they change the Mercury in the water, or they change the air quality, or they change something. They have made a full-scale assault on the environment in which all of us live.

The state of the Union is not good. If we think about the whole question of the amount of greenhouse gases, the United States leads the world in greenhouse gases; and the President says, we refuse to deal with the rest of the world on this. We are 5 percent of the population. We use 25 percent of the energy in the world. We do not have to care what the rest of the world thinks. Will he make a proposal tonight to get us off our oil addiction, or are we going to continually be at war over oil reserves in Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan? This President is taking us into a situation from which it is going to be very difficult for anybody else to dig us out.

The next President of the United States will have a tremendous problem. That is to say nothing of what he has done with the question of Medicare and

what he has done, or not done, with Social Security. He has borrowed all of the money, and we are still going to have a deficit of over \$300 billion. And tonight he is going to say, hey, look, folks, I have a plan for us. You ought to privatize that Social Security. You could be doing a lot better if you just had that money yourself. You should not be giving it to the government and getting a guarantee. Let us just give it back to you and you can open your private accounts, and you can all get privately rich. What do you think the people of Enron think who lost everything and all they have left is their Social Security? George Bush and Ken Lay could not figure out how to get that away from them, or they would not have that either.

So the question tonight is going to be a rephrasing, in my view, of a question that Ronald Reagan asked us a number of years ago. And I really think this crystallizes the problem with where we are tonight in this State of the Union. Ronald Reagan said to the American people, "Are you better off today than you were 4 years ago?" making it all a very personal thing.

Now, the problem with the speech we are going to get tonight is going to be more of the same sort of stuff to confuse the American people: I am going to make the tax cuts permanent; I am going to go to the Moon; I am going to go to Mars, trying to confuse the American people and get reelected. The question that should be asked tonight is, Are we better off than we were 3 years ago?

The question the President needs to answer for us is, What is the common good, Mr. President? Why, why does all the money in the tax cuts, why does it all go to people on the top? Why is it all for those people? What about the people at the bottom, the kids that are going to college and get deeper in debt; the older people who have still got to come up with \$3,500 out of their pocket to get anything out of this pharmaceutical benefit?

The question tonight should be, What is in the common interest? What is the common good for all of us? If it is good for all of us, we will support him. But if it is just for his friends in the oil industry and the munitions industry, then I think he deserves to get a pretty silent response. He does not deserve clapping when he stands up and says the economy is great.

Mr. Speaker, 1,000 jobs last month, 1,000. 68,000 people in my own State are losing jobs, and no unemployment benefit. How can you call that good?

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his statement. I really appreciate his being here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding; and I thank him, above all, for his leadership in affording the opportunity for members of the Congressional Black Caucus and

other Members to come forward with this so-called "prerebuttal." I am going to speak on one subject instead of on the many subjects that concern me likely to be raised this evening, because this subject is at the center of black misery today. Instead of calling it a prerebuttal, I literally mean it as friendly advice because the subject is the cause of so much chaos in the African American community, and that subject is jobs.

The President got 10 percent of the black vote the last time, something under 10 percent; and there are various figures about how much he proposes to get this time. What the President has got to understand about the African American community is that it is the most bottom line community in the United States, that is to say, it votes its bottom line because it has no choice, because it is further behind in our country because of historic circumstances of which we are all aware. The indication of just how bottom line the black community is, is switch from the Republican Party, the so-called party that freed the slaves, to the Democratic Party when the bottom line was whether or not you could get a job or had enough to eat, and those are the issues that are central to the African American community today.

Yet, I expect the President to boast of the economy. He stands before his economy today, his economy, his economy after almost 4 years. But our response to the President is borrowed from 8 years ago. It is not the economy, Mr. President, it is not the economy, and I will not say "stupid." It is not the economy, Mr. President. It is jobs. There is no such thing as a recovery without jobs. Whatever happens on Wall Street will be irrelevant to the average American if there is joblessness and fear of joblessness; and that is what continues to grip our country, despite improvement in the stock market. Any doubt about that may have vanished yesterday when Iowa, the pre-eminent antiwar State, according to the responses to the Democratic primary, said as its residents left the polls that jobs was the number one issue. Half of the American people indicate they are worse off than when this President took office. Jobs and the lack of health care, which is in our country attached to jobs, is the reason for that sentiment from the American people. And if half of the American people say they were worse off, I can assure my colleagues that the majority of African Americans would answer they are worse off to that question.

This Congress left town this time, the latest in memory; but they left, but they did not leave before they made sure that the pharmaceutical companies had theirs in the Medicare bill, and they certainly did not leave until the tax cuts for the wealthy were secure. But they left a country at 9 percent unemployment.

For African Americans, that represents a 20 percent increase since this

President took office. We have some before and afters to compare here in recent history, because there was a 48 percent decline in unemployment while President Clinton was in office. Yet Congress left town without any jobs program and with virtually no discussion on this floor of a jobs program. I understand the President is likely to talk about a retraining program this evening.

□ 1415

Mr. Speaker, I am going to have to say a few words about what we need more, that is a jobs program, not a retraining program. And I want to have something to say about how we can get there, by the way, with no increase in the deficit.

Congress left town without even any extension of unemployment benefits even though it was just before Christmas. Merry Christmas, America. Congress left town without increasing the minimum wage at all even though average income has decreased every year for the last 2 years. Congress left town with the child tax credit for the 6 million of the poorest Americans not there. Everyone else but the poorest even though the poverty rate in our country is up 3 years in a row.

Congress left town with a provision in the omnibus bill to reduce overtime for 8 million people. You know, for many of these people this is the difference between a low wage existence and a living wage: To work for it; you work overtime and you will get it.

Now, African Americans knew better than to get used to the Clinton economy. For a while we did hold some hope that this two-for-one, that is to say we had always have twice as much unemployment as white people, would somehow disappear, we held that hope because I can tell you here in this city even African American men getting out of jail could often find a job because then employers were looking for workers.

Today, Mr. Speaker, workers are searching endlessly for jobs. And the reason the unemployment rate does not look any worse than it does is because so many millions have dropped out of even looking any longer. I do not expect an economy like the economy of the late 1990s. And that is not the comparison I would make or the standard I would hold this President to. But I do not expect what we have seen, that black unemployment would increase faster than any period for the last 20 years.

I do not expect a month like October, for example, when blacks absorbed all of the unemployment. They were the only part of the population where unemployment grew. That kind of disproportion is not only heartless, it is immoral. And in the face of that, surely we can do more than talk about retraining. We can talk about an honest-to-goodness jobs program of the kind we have always had in times of recession.

Yet what bothers me most about the most recent period is there has been no particular American conversation about the disproportionate effect of joblessness on African Americans. We used to always talk about it. We used to talk about there is twice as much unemployment for African Americans, the effect that was having, having to reach down and do something about it. We ought to go back and read Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*. Because African American unemployment has become the invisible unemployment.

I indicated earlier that I was not talking about something we could not do something about. The Democrats introduced the Rebuild America Act of 2003. We could have given America a quick start in this jobless recovery with a provision of jobs in areas where they are most needed and where the country most needs work without increasing the deficit because this bill, a \$50 billion bill was paid for. It would have had an extraordinary effect, particularly before Christmas, because many of these jobs would have been in manufacturing and construction, and that is where the ripple effect is in areas like retailing, for example, where blacks are found often disproportionately.

But what did we do? Instead of looking at the Rebuild America Act, we went home. This act was focused on manufacturing and that is where the President is in trouble and where the Congress is in trouble, and on construction where the country is in trouble, where he is in trouble.

We could have relieved our national infrastructure deficit with this \$50 billion bill that would cover every aspect of our own infrastructure. Now, I was particularly interested in this because I am on the Permanent Select Committee on Homeland Security and because I fret daily about the deficits in infrastructure and what that does to security. For example, I want aviation. We have shored up some of airline security, but rail security, for example, is just out there. Amtrak, your Union Stations around the country and the lines that go in between them with tracks that invite mischief.

There was something in this bill for every district. For example, there were several things in there that would have helped my district, \$500 million for pending work items, for rehabilitation of Federal buildings. Pending work items that they cannot get to. And the interesting thing about this bill was that everything it was directed at were projects ready to go. Projects on the table waiting for the money to lift them up so that they could put people to work and deal with ailing infrastructure in our country.

The average length of unemployment today is more than 20 weeks. This is the longest period of unemployment in 20 years. Mr. Speaker, this President must speak directly to jobs, to the fear of jobs, to the loss of unemployment insurance with jobs or else he has given

us nothing that essential to reviving the domestic economy of our country.

Yeah, we got the slogan for tonight. It is not "It Is the Economy, Stupid"; it is jobs. And not "stupid," I respect our President. It is jobs. It is not the economy, Mr. President; it is jobs, Mr. President.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus for giving us the opportunity to lay out a road map, if you will, for this Nation as we prepare to hear the President's State of the Union address.

And I might say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, I am told and I have heard that many view this as a state of the world because he is the commander in chief and the leader of the free world, commander in chief of the most powerful Nation in the world. And the world watches tonight.

So, my first concern with respect to the optimism that I hope we hear tonight is that he will restate for the world that we are a country of freedoms, protecting both our civil liberties and civil rights, and that we will not intend or pretend to govern from a position of fear, that we will continue to mourn those who we lost on 9/11 but that we will go forward embracing the freedom of this Nation and reemphasize our civil liberties.

And so that we can address Attorney General Ashcroft to the extent that we began to reinforce the civil liberties of Americans as opposed to take them away, to ask the questions about an enemy combatant without the opportunity to have access to counsel, to wonder why the Transportation Security Administration will begin profiling all Americans who are traveling on domestic flights, and are an outrage, to begin to address the questions that our rights should not be taken away but they should be enhanced. Library books need not be the cause of suggesting someone is a terrorist.

And the civil rights of Americans reinforcing affirmative action, believing in the right to privacy, must be stated tonight. The Congressional Black Caucus has worked for a very long time on a real racial profiling bill, one that would prevent racial profiling. We ask the President to speak tonight about the need to sign hate crimes legislation which we have been working on for now over almost a decade.

And then when it comes to election reform in this year, it is crucial that we add to the election reform legislation a tracking system, a paper trail, so that when we go to the 2004 election, when many jurisdictions have gone to the electronic process, we will not have the crisis of 2000 when we turn people away but, more importantly, when votes were not counted. Now that we have the electronic process, let me say

to you that it certainly is a travesty that we have a situation where we cannot even track how the votes were cast.

I hope he will promote the Peace Corps and that encourage, in the next fiscal year, extra support for the Peace Corps, the face of America, and make sure that we do not assign one person to an area but we assign two Americans to a region for safety and other reasons.

I believe going into space is valuable, but we have to do it in a bipartisan way, protecting American jobs, providing for education and explaining to the American people how we will fund our vision in going to Mars and to the moon and the safety of it.

Let me just say that the Democrats have extended an olive branch. I agree with my colleagues the need to create more jobs. That is a big question, are you going to do it. But I agree that Democrats are saying to the President that those who seek higher education need increased dollars for the Pell Grant from \$4,050 to \$5,800 and doubling the Hope Scholarship Tax Credit from \$1,500 to \$3,000, and getting rid of the disabled veterans tax once and for all. How can we have young men and women in the front lines of Iraq and when they come home as disabled veterans, they are to be taxed?

And finally let me say, Mr. Speaker, we have got a lot of work to do on immigration reform. And my support for moving in the right direction is that I say to the President tonight, let us talk about comprehensive immigration reform including Liberians, including Haitians, including a comprehensive response, Europeans and others from all over who are trying to earn access to legalization, let's not have a flat earth procedure where at the end of 3 years you disappear into the night.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the President will be optimistic tonight. I hope he will accept the olive branch. I hope he will work with the Congressional Black Caucus and the chairman, and that we will get on the right track for America. Because if we do not, the world is watching us tonight and wondering whether America can lead in the 21st century.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr.

FOLEY) for allowing me to have this unanimous consent and let me commend the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus for having this special order dealing with some of the very trying problems of our time.

In this new millennium, we will face many hurdles and we are going to hear the first the State of the Union address tonight. But today I would like to rise this afternoon to discuss the true state of the Union as it is, not as we would like it to be. We have our true land and then there is wonderland. And it is great in wonderland because all things are nice and we have the road that leads to all good things.

However, the true state of the Nation is more grim. It is time to face reality. There are too many people in our Nation who are still struggling. They are not enjoying the benefits that have been awarded to the more privileged among us. While the White House tries to put the best face on the economy, the fact is that we have lost about 2.5 million jobs in the last 2 years. Long-term unemployment is at a 20-year high.

While the wealthiest Americans enjoy the benefits of tax cuts, which was tilted their way, millions of Americans continue to live paycheck to paycheck, although the unemployment rate has dropped .1 percent. There are more people unemployed this month than were last month because thousands and thousands have dropped out of the hunt for a job because of the long-term unemployment. And they have just given up, they have fallen out.

□ 1430

So the unemployment rate is not even a true reflection of what is going on. The response of the Bush administration to this inequity is to make lop-sided tax cuts permanent.

Our friends across the aisle who used to rail against budget deficits only a few years ago are now willing to overlook the largest, most alarming budget deficit in the history of this great Nation.

Under former-President Clinton's budget policies, we amassed a healthy budget surplus, which has now been totally squandered. We used to talk about mortgaging our children's futures. We do not hear that anymore.

What this means is that resources that can be channeled into positive action to address such key problems as jobs, health care, education, housing are no longer available. They have been drained by the irresponsible tax cuts for the very wealthy in our Nation.

The state of the Union today is weaker in many other ways. Racial disparities in health care continue to take a toll on minorities. Yet the administration's response to this national health crises is to sweep it under the carpet.

The Washington Post reported last week that a Federal report on racial disparities was rewritten for the first time in our history by the Department

of Health and Human Services to hide the fact that minorities in our Nation receive inferior health care for a wide range of diseases. In fact, the final draft of what was supposed to be a scientific study dropped the detailed descriptions of health disparities and removed a reference to national problems. This is a serious matter because studies have shown that even among patients with identical diseases and similar income levels, minorities are less likely to receive the same quality of care for diseases including cancer, diabetes, heart problems, AIDS, and other illnesses.

As our colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), pointed out, the first draft of the "Health Care Racial Disparity Report" mentioned the word disparity 30 times in the key-finding section, while the final version mentioned the word only twice and then even failed to define it.

As a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, I remain concerned about inequities in education of our children. This marks the 50th anniversary of the historic *Brown v. the Board of Education* decision which banned segregation in schools. Yet, the fact is that our schools have not reached the goal of racial integration. About one-third of African American students go to schools that are 90 to 100 percent African American. About 70 percent attend schools that are composed primarily of minority students. We need strong leadership at the top to reverse this trend and to really leave no child behind and to ensure access to a quality education for all of our students.

We are one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all; and we need to make that plan and dream a reality.

Mr. Speaker, we can only make our country stronger and we are better if we are willing to examine the real state of the Union and seek real solutions to our problems.

I hope we can pull together and address these issues so that we can begin to move forward again in crucial areas including the economy, health care, and education.

FUTURE IS BRIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TURNER of Ohio). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be back here in our Nation's capital for the opening of the 108th second session of Congress.

As we start a new year, we often pray for hope and optimism to help lift the Nation, to help guide the Nation, to help give it strength and to honor the character of this Nation that we all love so dearly.

So it is troubling that when, in the first hour of the first day of the 108th

second session, the negativity ringing in this Chamber is deafening, the criticism, the constant carping, the antagonism towards this President knows no boundaries. Yet the American public remains optimistic and hopeful because that is in our core nature. That is our core; that is who we are as people.

There is a reason Howard Dean went down in ashes, in flames in Iowa yesterday, because for the last 11 months he has done nothing but characterize and criticize the President of the United States in negative tones. Consequently, John Edwards comes in second because he was at least talking about hopeful optimism, a spirit that is imbued in the character of this Nation and its people.

As we proceed in this year of trials and tribulations, you have to look back at the past year and look forward to the future and hope that, rather than fighting one another, we can join together in finding solutions to our common problems.

In the last hour and a half I have heard how bad the economy is. Yet at this time our Dow Jones Industrial Average is over 10,500; NASDAQ has passed the 2,000 threshold. Unemployment is dropping. Statistics prove it. Last month was not the best month; but anyone who follows the economy recognizes there is a lag behind employment and robust employment numbers and optimism in the sector that is gauged by Wall Street. Factory orders. Sale of durable goods. Light trucks. Look at the numbers. Real estate. First time home buyers. People's 401(k)s now back to where they were pre-1999. Their IRA's are gaining momentum again. Their financial status is better. Not perfect, not perfect, but better. And what fuels that basic surge in investor confidence? Well, that is the term. Investors' confidence.

In order to have confidence, you have to have some optimism, and you have to have some hope that times will in fact get better. But if you listen to the cacophony of voices from the other side of the aisle, woe is me, and how desperate we are.

It was telling, one of the speakers offered the President an olive branch moments ago. Why is it when they offer the olive branch, they always hand it to you with the thorns exposed?

Can there not be a generous offer of helping together, solving Americans' problems? It has to be about criticizing virtually everything this administration has done.

Look at Iraq and look at the strength of character that this President displayed in challenging one of the most evil dictators of our time. He is met with negative sound bytes and poll-driven babble about why we should not be there and why we should leave immediately. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) and Mr. Dean eloquently made that point. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) came in last and Mr. Dean was third. So clearly I think others, based on if you

are taking polling statistics, 65 percent of the American public thought it was the right thing to do to liberate Iraq from Saddam Hussein.

The President stood alone on that precipice trying to decide what was best for the people of this country, stood alone. And yet with the wind at his back, he has now been able to change fundamentally the way other nations look at us. Fundamentally. Libya is now in negotiations to turn over its nuclear secrets and arsenal and weaponry and technology. Libya. It was not that long ago that Muammar Khadafi was heading Libya, obviously with an eye towards destroying the Middle East. And now Libya is at least, hopefully, brokering negotiations as we speak.

North Korea is sounding more conciliatory rather than beating their chests and threatening the annihilation of Japan or South Korea or other places. North Korea is now starting to talk about containment.

Pakistan and India, who have been at odds for a long time, are talking about constructive engagement to solve their mutual problems relative to Kashmir.

Think about it. Think about just those hot spots in the world where because of the President's strength of character in pursuing the evil of Saddam Hussein have we now started to recognize that only peace can be achieved through strength. Yes, it must have been lonely for this President when the rest of the free world was saying, I am not interested; let us not do that; let us not upset the apple cart; let us not bother Iraq. They are quiet now.

To the contrary. If you are one of the 1 million people that have died in Iraq, I am not sure you consider it quiet. If you had your tongue cut out by Saddam Hussein's henchmen, I do not think you consider Iraq peaceful. If you were starved or imprisoned or murdered by the regime, I do not think you consider Iraq a place you would call home. Yet, because of the President's insistence on pursuing the course of action that would free and liberate the people of Iraq, we now have the dominoes falling in other areas of the world that are showing that the United States' strength is what is solving the perplexing and difficult challenges we face as a Nation and as a world power.

I can remember during the last administration when there was a problem in Haiti, and I believe the U.S.S. *Harlan* was heading for Haiti, and because of a band of malcontents and miscontents and misfits who were on the dock waving brooms and pitchforks, our Commander in Chief then ordered the U.S.S. *Harlan* to turn around and not head into Haiti to bring peace and stability to Haiti.

We turned around a naval vessel because we were nervous about the gathering of dissidents on a dock at Port au Prince. That visual image of our naval vessel turning around from a group waving brooms at our military power

was a shot heard round the world because people looked at that as an abject instance of failure on behalf of diplomacy and democracy and America's commitment. So why would people be fearful of the United States?

The first World Trade Center bombing was met with loud voices but no follow-up. Khobar Towers. The U.S.S. *Cole*. The war on terrorism was gathering strength for years before this President became our Commander in Chief. But only because of his leadership have we now seen progress in the theater and in the fight against terrorism. It seems like I turn on the TV every other day, and there is a critical commentary about homeland security; and yet we have not had another instance of terrorism in this country since September 11.

September 11 remains vivid in my mind as I left that City of New York that morning, minutes before the first World Trade Center was struck by that aircraft. I had passed only 4 or 5 minutes before that first plane struck and had noticed those gleaming towers in that New York glorious morning. After that strike on American soil, this President knew his obligation and his duty was to protect the public, and he has done that.

There is no perfect plan; but this President has marshaled his team, whether it be John Ashcroft or others, to help mobilize our law enforcement agencies for the fight ahead. Tom Ridge of Homeland Security and Asa Hutchinson have done a masterful job of bringing our Nation together to focus on our domestic tranquility.

The economy, as I mentioned earlier, is improving steadily. And that optimism will bring jobs for the American people. This President will talk about jobs because it is important to him. He has mentioned it time and time again. He never gets credit from those on the other side of the aisle, but he consistently believes that full employment and a robust economy go hand in hand.

This economy has improved. We were down at 7,200 on the Dow. We are now at 10,551, I believe, an hour ago. That is good news for the American investor. And it is good news for the American economy.

Medicare. People keep moaning about the bill. Most have not read it. Most of the benefits of the bill will not become effective for a while, but there is an improving opportunity for seniors through the Medicare delivery of prescription drugs to their communities.

□ 1445

I woke up this morning to the moveon.org campaign commercial with soft money. It is interesting. They raising soft money with reckless abandon. George Soros gave \$5 million to an organization headed by Democrats to destroy this President and demean him and demean the office, but they have moved on. Remember, they have moved on. They were there for the past President and they are there now as a vehi-

cle to spend soft money, that old bugaboo that was so reviled by the other side of the aisle. Now they have found other ways to move money into new different camps and run the same negative ads but just not run by the political committees here in Washington. They are just committees that are closer to home, I guess.

Health care is something we are concerned about, and the President will address that as well. He is concerned about health care. The President's concerned about health care, the delivery of health care, the availability, the affordability, and that will be discussed tonight.

He is talking about the space program, and yes, there are those that question whether the space program has, or do we have the funding to move forward in the corridor of space, and let me challenge everyone to recognize what has occurred because of the space program. Whether it is the cellular phone or the Blackberry, it is the heart pacemaker, the microwave oven, Internet technology, all has come from a genesis of discovery of space. From the scientists and astronauts, from the team leaders, whether it is Johnson Space Center in Texas or Kennedy in Florida, these have been the pioneers that have brought about incredible opportunities in technological corridors to bring about a better way of life for all America. The discovery of cells and cancerous genes and things that may stem the tide of devastating illnesses and disease have been discovered in space. So this President, true to his mission of being an innovator and a leader, is challenging us to move forward. The clarion call to all, this final frontier, as was mentioned by John Kennedy, has not been conquered and will not be given up because of tight budget years.

The President talks about immigration, and a lot of people are nervous about immigration. Obviously, again, they have not read the bill. They think there is a blanket amnesty. The President's leading on an issue that, yes, is politically polarizing but is an issue once again that he is not willing to have just out there in the abyss and not be discussed in practical solutions, rather than political sound bytes.

Education. I have mentioned many times on this floor my father was a principal and a schoolteacher. So education is important to this Member of Congress, and this President has worked to make education the hallmark of his administration.

So rather than continue to take the time of the Congress today, I just ask the other side of the aisle if rather than snappy sound bytes and eloquent rhetoric all directed to demonize this President, that if half the energy was going into developing constructive proposals to bring to the floor, we may be able to solve America's problems.

In today's Roll Call, a newspaper that is all over the Hill, David Winston has the headline "Democratic Hope-

fuls' Sniping Souring Their Images With Voters." It talks about, "Twenty-four hours after the Iowa caucus grabbed the national spotlight for the Democrats, President Bush takes center stage tonight for the annual ritual of the State of the Union address. As Bush heads to Capitol Hill with the power and prestige of the presidency behind him, the Democrats are licking their wounds and heading to New Hampshire, some on CPR."

"In contrast, the President will report to the nation as a strong wartime leader," and I emphasize strong, wartime leader, "as the economy comes roaring back, creating jobs, as his education centerpiece, No Child Left Behind, remains popular with the public, and as a President who kept his promise to pass a prescription drug benefit for seniors. As Ronald Reagan said when he left office, 'Not bad. Not bad at all.'"

"Meanwhile, the Democratic presidential contenders have gone to the mattresses in the biggest family feud since the Hatfields and McCoys. The Democratic primary has become little more than a nasty snipe-a-thon, leaving none of the candidates looking statesmanlike, much less presidential."

If my colleagues happened to watch Mr. Dean screaming at the TV today, they will realize this may not be the man we want close to the nuclear button. I added that. That is not in Mr. Winston's column.

"The endless bickering and name calling is beginning to take its toll on everyone in the race."

"The latest polls show not only that the Democratic presidential candidates are losing ground with voters overall," but they are also losing Democratic voters who have an increasingly unfavorable view of their own field.

Let me continue because I think it is important to just lay this out as an observation made by Mr. Winston.

"A comparison of the two most recent CNN/USA Today/Gallup polls, taken January 2-5 and November 10-12, spells bad news for Democrats in two key measurements. First, with all voters, every one of the six candidates tested . . . saw little or no movement with their favorables since November, while their unfavorables increased." Why? Because America rejects pessimism, negativity and nastiness, and that is what we have had hurled at those in Iowa and we witnessed through the reporting of Fox and CNN and others.

Let me finalize with this one. "Dean led the pack in this dubious category with his unfavorables increasing more than his favorables by 13 points to reach an unenviable 28 percent favorable, 39 percent unfavorable rating by all voters. But, every one of the Democratic candidates saw their favorable-unfavorable ratings get worse among the overall electorate."

They are running for the highest office in the land, and as time goes on

and people get to know them more, they like them less, not because they are not pleasant people to look at and not because they are not educated. I am sure they all qualified in their educated endeavors, but why is America rejecting them? They are rejecting them because of their nastiness and their negativity and their pessimism because America, after all, is about optimism, about hope, about opportunity, about equality, about engagement, about being part of a bigger picture, a bigger world, a bigger place.

So I do pray that as we conclude today that the minority party, that may be the permanent minority if they keep it up, rather than promising in speech to extend an olive branch, that they actually do it and give this President a chance. We will not always agree with this President as Republicans or Democrats, but I think in the final analysis, as we look at the man as a person, I have come to really admire his determination.

When I heard those comments by Paul O'Neill, I thought back of several meetings we have had with multiple Members of Congress in the Cabinet room of the White House, and one foretelling day was about the Patients' Bill of Rights, a subject that I had worked on with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) and others in this country for a long time. As we sat around the room I was really taken aback by the depth of knowledge that President Bush had relative to the Patients' Bill of Rights. The discussion with lawmakers, the back and forth, the questions, the probative questions, the responses, whether we wanted to hear the answer or not, he gave it to us with what he believed was the best course of action for this particular piece of legislation. This was a President engaged in the minutia of debate, not a scripted card that was given to him by an aide, but something that inherently he understood, both intimately and through research and through interest.

So as we hear the State of the Union tonight, as we enter 2004, let us hope that the optimism that I know will be contained in the speech becomes contagious, and let us hope that all of us as Members of this deliberate body can join together in trying to figure ways to make every American safer, Democrat, Republican or Independent, bringing together a better world where we are talking and communicating and helping each other in the Nation, whether it is the fight against AIDS in Africa or whether it is terrorism in the Middle East or whether it is freeing people from tyranny.

Let us join together in a pledge that in order to form a more perfect union, we must be organized together as citizens first and politicians second. Our political parties are not the most important credential on this floor. Our most important credential is citizens, Americans, and hopefully patriots.

I wish the President well tonight because his guidance and his expertise is

needed by the American public, and I hope as young children hopefully are allowed to watch history and democracy in action here on the floor, we will see a President whose character cannot be questioned, whose administration has performed admirably, whose people have been at the forefront of the fight. I wish him well and I wish him success, and I know together, as Americans, his leadership, his vision will help every American find work in the new year.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TURNER of Ohio). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:40 p.m. for the purposes of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 8:40 p.m.

□ 2044

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 8 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.

JOINT SESSION OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE HELD PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 349 TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Bill Sims, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE);

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ); and

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM);

The Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON);

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL);

The Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN);

The Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER);

The Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE);

The Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI);

The Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAU);

The Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN);

The Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED);

The Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON); and

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Roble Olhaye, Ambassador from Djibouti.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

The Associate Justice of the Supreme Court entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 9 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable Wilson Livingood, announced the President of the United States.

The President of the United States, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you the President of the United States.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The PRESIDENT. Mr. Speaker, Vice President CHENEY, Members of Congress, distinguished guests, and fellow citizens:

America this evening is a Nation called to great responsibilities. And we are rising to meet them.

As we gather tonight, hundreds of thousands of American servicemen and women are deployed across the world in the war on terror. By bringing hope to the oppressed and delivering justice to the violent, they are making America more secure.

Each day, law enforcement personnel and intelligence officers are tracking terrorist threats; analysts are examining airline passenger lists; the men and women of our new Department of Homeland Security are patrolling our coasts and borders. And their vigilance is protecting America.

Americans are proving once again to be the hardest working people in the world. The American economy is growing stronger. The tax relief you passed is working.

Tonight, Members of Congress can take pride in the great works of compassion and reform that skeptics had thought impossible. You are raising the standards for our public schools; and you are giving our senior citizens prescription drug coverage under Medicare.

We have faced serious challenges together, and now we face a choice. We can go forward with confidence and resolve, or we can turn back to the dangerous illusion that terrorists are not plotting and outlaw regimes are no threat to us. We can press on with economic growth and reforms in education and Medicare, or we can turn back to old policies and old divisions.

We have not come all this way, through tragedy and trial and war, only to falter and leave our work unfinished. Americans are rising to the tasks of history, and they expect the same from us. In their efforts, their enterprise, and their character, the American people are showing that the state of our Union is confident and strong.

Our greatest responsibility is the active defense of the American people. Twenty-eight months have passed since September 11, 2001, over 2 years without an attack on American soil, and it is tempting to believe that the danger is behind us. That hope is understandable, comforting, and false. The killing has continued in Bali, Jakarta, Casablanca, Riyadh, Mombasa, Jerusalem, Istanbul, and Baghdad. The terrorists continue to plot against America and the civilized world. And by our will and courage, this danger will be defeated.

Inside the United States, where the war began, we must continue to give our homeland security and law enforcement personnel every tool they need to defend us. And one of those essential tools is the PATRIOT Act, which al-

lows Federal law enforcement to better share information, to track terrorists, to disrupt their cells, and to seize their assets. For years, we have used similar provisions to catch embezzlers and drug traffickers. If these methods are good for hunting criminals, they are even more important for hunting terrorists. Key provisions of the PATRIOT Act are set to expire next year. The terrorist threat will not expire on that schedule. Our law enforcement needs this vital legislation to protect our citizens. You need to renew the PATRIOT Act.

America is on the offensive against the terrorists who started this war. Last March, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, a mastermind of September 11, awoke to find himself in the custody of U.S. and Pakistani authorities. Last August 11 brought the capture of the terrorist Hambali, who was a key player in the attack in Indonesia that killed over 200 people. We are tracking al Qaeda around the world, and nearly two-thirds of their known leaders have now been captured or killed. Thousands of very skilled and determined military personnel are on a manhunt, going after the remaining killers who hide in cities and caves; and one by one, we will bring these terrorists to justice.

As part of the offensive against terror, we are also confronting the regimes that harbor and support terrorists and could supply them with nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. The United States and our allies are determined: we refuse to live in the shadow of this ultimate danger.

The first to see our determination were the Taliban, who made Afghanistan the primary training base of al Qaeda killers. As of this month, that country has a new constitution, guaranteeing free elections and full participation by women. Businesses are opening, health care centers are being established, and the boys and girls of Afghanistan are back in school. With help from the new Afghan army, our coalition is leading aggressive raids against surviving members of the Taliban and al Qaeda. The men and women of Afghanistan are building a nation that is free and proud and fighting terror, and America is honored to be their friend.

Since we last met in this Chamber, combat forces of the United States, Great Britain, Australia, Poland and other countries enforced the demands of the United Nations, ended the rule of Saddam Hussein; and the people of Iraq are free. Having broken the Baathist regime, we face a remnant of violent Saddam supporters. Men who ran away from our troops in battle are now dispersed and attack from the shadows.

These killers, joined by foreign terrorists, are a serious, continuing danger. Yet we are making progress against them. The once all-powerful ruler of Iraq was found in a hole and now sits in a prison cell. Of the top 55 officials of the former regime, we have captured or killed 45. Our forces are on the offensive, leading over 1,600 patrols

a day and conducting an average of 180 raids every week. We are dealing with these thugs in Iraq, just as surely as we dealt with Saddam Hussein's evil regime.

The work of building a new Iraq is hard, and it is right. And America has always been willing to do what it takes for what is right. Last January, Iraq's only law was the whim of one brutal man. Today our coalition is working with the Iraqi Governing Council to draft a basic law with a bill of rights. We are working with Iraqis and the United Nations to prepare for a transition to full Iraqi sovereignty by the end of June. As democracy takes hold in Iraq, the enemies of freedom will do all in their power to spread violence and fear. They are trying to shake the will of our country and our friends, but the United States of America will never be intimidated by thugs and assassins. The killers will fail, and the Iraqi people will live in freedom.

Month by month, Iraqis are assuming more responsibility for their own security and their own future. And tonight we are honored to welcome one of Iraq's most respected leaders, the current president of the Iraqi Governing Council, Adnan Pachachi. Sir, America stands with you and the Iraqi people as you build a free and peaceful nation.

Because of American leadership and resolve, the world is changing for the better. Last month, the leader of Libya voluntarily pledged to disclose and dismantle all of his regime's weapons of mass destruction programs, including a uranium enrichment project for nuclear weapons. Colonel Qadhafi correctly judged that his country would be better off, and far more secure, without weapons of mass murder. Nine months of intense negotiations involving the United States and Great Britain succeeded with Libya, while 12 years of diplomacy with Iraq did not. And one reason is clear: for diplomacy to be effective, words must be credible, and no one can now doubt the word of America.

Different threats require different strategies. Along with nations in the region, we are insisting that North Korea eliminate its nuclear program. America and the international community are demanding that Iran meet its commitments and not develop nuclear weapons. America is committed to keeping the world's most dangerous weapons out of the hands of the world's most dangerous regimes.

When I came to this rostrum on September 20, 2001, I brought the police shield of a fallen officer, my reminder of lives that ended and a task that does not end. I gave to you and to all Americans my complete commitment to securing our country and defeating our enemies. And this pledge, given by one, has been kept by many. You in the Congress have provided the resources for our defense and cast the difficult votes of war and peace. Our closest allies have been unwavering. America's intelligence personnel and diplomats have been skilled and tireless.

And the men and women of the American military, they have taken the hardest duty. We have seen their skill and courage in armored charges and midnight raids and lonely hours on faithful watch. We have seen the joy when they return, and felt the sorrow when one is lost. I have had the honor of meeting our service men and women at many posts, from the deck of a carrier in the Pacific, to a mess hall in Baghdad. Many of our troops are listening tonight. And I want you and your families to know: America is proud of you. And my administration, and this Congress, will give you the resources you need to fight and win the war on terror.

I know that some people question if America is really in a war at all. They view terrorism more as a crime, a problem to be solved mainly with law enforcement and indictments. After the World Trade Center was first attacked in 1993, some of the guilty were indicted, tried, convicted, and sent to prison. But the matter was not settled. The terrorists were still training and plotting in other nations and drawing up more ambitious plans. After the chaos and carnage of September 11, it is not enough to serve our enemies with legal papers. The terrorists and their supporters declared war on the United States, and war is what they got.

Some in this Chamber, and in our country, did not support the liberation of Iraq. Objections to war often come from principled motives. But let us be candid about the consequences of leaving Saddam Hussein in power. We are seeking all the facts. Already the Kay Report identified dozens of weapons of mass destruction-related program activities and significant amounts of equipment that Iraq concealed from the United Nations. Had we failed to act, the dictator's weapons of mass destruction programs would continue to this day. Had we failed to act, Security Council resolutions on Iraq would have been revealed as empty threats, weakening the United Nations and encouraging defiance by dictators around the world. Iraq's torture chambers would still be filled with victims, terrified and innocent. The killing fields of Iraq, where hundreds of thousands of men and women and children vanished into the sands, would still be known only to the killers. For all who love freedom and peace, the world without Saddam Hussein's regime is a better and safer place.

Some critics have said our duties in Iraq must be internationalized. This particular criticism is hard to explain to our partners in Britain, Australia, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Italy, Spain, Poland, Denmark, Hungary, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania, the Netherlands, Norway, El Salvador, and 17 other countries that have committed troops to Iraq. As we debate at home, we must never ignore the vital contributions of our international partners or dismiss their sac-

rifices. From the beginning, America has sought international support for operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and we have gained much support. There is a difference, however, between leading a coalition of many nations and submitting to the objections of a few. America will never seek a permission slip to defend the security of our country.

We also hear doubts that democracy is a realistic goal for the greater Middle East, where freedom is rare. Yet it is mistaken and condescending to assume that whole cultures and great religions are incompatible with liberty and self-government. I believe that God has planted in every human heart the desire to live in freedom; and even when that desire is crushed by tyranny for decades, it will rise again.

As long as the Middle East remains a place of tyranny and despair and anger, it will continue to produce men and movements that threaten the safety of America and our friends. So America is pursuing a forward strategy of freedom in the greater Middle East. We will challenge the enemies of reform, confront the allies of terror, and expect a higher standard from our friends. To cut through the barriers of hateful propaganda, the Voice of America and other broadcast services are expanding their programming in Arabic and Persian, and soon a new television service will begin providing reliable news and information across the region. I will send you a proposal to double the budget of the National Endowment for Democracy, and to focus its new work on the development of free elections and free markets, free press, and free labor unions in the Middle East. And above all, we will finish the historic work of democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq so those nations can light the way for others and help transform a troubled part of the world.

America is a Nation with a mission, and that mission comes from our most basic beliefs. We have no desire to dominate, no ambitions of empire. Our aim is a democratic peace, a peace founded upon the dignity and rights of every man and woman. America acts in this cause with friends and allies at our side; yet we understand our special calling: this great Republic will lead the cause of freedom.

In these last 3 years, adversity has also revealed the fundamental strengths of the American economy. We have come through recession and terrorist attack and corporate scandals and the uncertainties of war. And because you acted to stimulate our economy with tax relief, this economy is strong and growing stronger.

You have doubled the child tax credit from \$500 to \$1,000, reduced the marriage penalty, begun to phase out the death tax, reduced taxes on capital gains and stock dividends, cut taxes on small businesses, and you have lowered taxes for every American who pays income taxes.

Americans took those dollars and put them to work, driving this economy

forward. The pace of economic growth in the third quarter of 2003 was the fastest in nearly 20 years. New home construction: the highest in almost 20 years. Home ownership rates: the highest ever. Manufacturing activity is increasing. Inflation is low. Interest rates are low. Exports are growing. Productivity is high, and jobs are on the rise.

These numbers confirm that the American people are using their money far better than government would have, and you were right to return it.

America's growing economy is also a changing economy. As technology transforms the way almost every job is done, America becomes more productive, and workers need new skills. Much of our job growth will be found in high-skilled fields like health care and biotechnology. So we must respond by helping more Americans gain the skills to find good jobs in our new economy.

All skills begin with the basics of reading and math, which are supposed to be learned in the early grades of our schools. Yet for too long, for too many children, those skills were never mastered. By passing the No Child Left Behind Act, you have made the expectation of literacy the law of our country. We are providing more funding for our schools, a 36 percent increase since 2001. We are requiring higher standards. We are regularly testing every child on the fundamentals. We are reporting results to parents and making sure they have better options when schools are not performing. We are making progress toward excellence for every child in America.

But the status quo always has defenders. Some want to undermine the No Child Left Behind Act by weakening standards and accountability. Yet the results we require are really a matter of common sense: we expect third graders to read and do math at the third grade level. That is not asking too much. Testing is the only way to identify and help students who are falling behind.

This Nation will not go back to the days of simply shuffling children along from grade to grade without them learning the basics. I refuse to give up on any child, and the No Child Left Behind Act is opening the door of opportunity to all of America's children.

At the same time, we must ensure that older students and adults can gain the skills they need to find work now. Many of the fastest-growing occupations require strong math and science preparation and training beyond the high school level. So tonight I propose a series of measures called Jobs for the 21st Century. This program will provide extra help to middle- and high school students who fall behind in reading and math, expand Advanced Placement programs in low-income schools, invite math and science professionals from the private sector to teach part time in our high schools. I propose larger Pell grants for students

who prepare for college with demanding courses in high school. I propose increasing our support for America's fine community colleges. I do so so they can train workers for industries that are creating the most new jobs. By all these actions, we will help more and more Americans to join in the growing prosperity of our country.

Job training is important, and so is job creation. We must continue to pursue an aggressive, pro-growth economic agenda.

Congress has some unfinished business on the issue of taxes. The tax reductions you passed are set to expire. Unless you act, the unfair tax on marriage will go back up. Unless you act, millions of families will be charged \$300 more in Federal taxes for every child. Unless you act, small businesses will pay higher taxes. Unless you act, the death tax will eventually come back to life. Unless you act, Americans face a tax increase. What Congress has given, the Congress should not take away. For the sake of job growth, the tax cuts you passed should be permanent.

Our agenda for jobs and growth must help small business owners and employees with relief from needless Federal regulation and protect them from junk and frivolous lawsuits. Consumers and businesses need reliable supplies of energy to make our economy run, so I urge you to pass legislation to modernize our electricity system, promote conservation, and make America less dependent on foreign sources of energy. My administration is promoting free and fair trade to open up new markets for America's entrepreneurs and manufacturers and farmers, and to create jobs for America's workers. Younger workers should have the opportunity to build a nest egg by saving part of their Social Security taxes in a personal retirement account. We should make the Social Security System a source of ownership for the American people.

And we should limit the burden of government on this economy by acting as good stewards of taxpayer dollars. In 2 weeks I will send you a budget that funds the war, protects the homeland and meets important domestic needs by limiting the growth in discretionary spending to less than 4 percent. This will require that Congress focus on priorities, cut wasteful spending, and be wise with the people's money. By doing so, we can cut the deficit in half over the next 5 years.

Tonight, I also ask you to reform our immigration laws so they reflect our values and benefit our economy. I propose a new temporary worker program to match willing foreign workers with willing employers when no Americans can be found to fill the job. This reform will be good for our economy because employers will find needed workers in an honest and orderly system. A temporary worker program will help protect our homeland, allowing Border Patrol and law enforcement to focus on true threats to our national security. I

oppose amnesty, because it would encourage further illegal immigration and unfairly reward those who break our laws. My temporary worker program will preserve the citizenship path for those who respect the law, while bringing millions of hard-working men and women out from the shadows of American life.

Our Nation's health care system, like our economy, is also in a time of change. Amazing medical technologies are improving and saving lives. This dramatic progress has brought its own challenge, in the rising costs of medical care and health insurance. Members of Congress, we must work together to help control those costs and extend the benefits of modern medicine throughout our country.

Meeting these goals requires bipartisan effort, and 2 months ago you showed the way. By strengthening Medicare and adding a prescription drug benefit, you kept a basic commitment to our seniors. You are giving them the modern medicine they deserve.

Starting this year, under the law you passed, seniors can choose to receive a drug discount card, saving them 10 to 25 percent off the retail price of most prescription drugs, and millions of low-income seniors can get an additional \$600 to buy medicine. Beginning next year, seniors will have new coverage for preventive screenings against diabetes and heart disease, and seniors just entering Medicare can receive wellness exams.

In January of 2006, seniors can get prescription drug coverage under Medicare. For a monthly premium of about \$35, most seniors who do not have that coverage today can expect to see their drug bills cut roughly in half. Under this reform, senior citizens will be able to keep their Medicare just as it is, or they can choose a Medicare plan that fits them best, just as you, as Members of Congress, can choose an insurance plan that meets your needs. And starting this year, millions of Americans will be able to save money tax-free for their medical expenses in a health savings account.

I signed this measure proudly, and any attempt to limit the choices of our seniors or to take away their prescription drug coverage under Medicare will meet my veto.

On the critical issue of health care, our goal is to ensure that Americans can choose and afford private health care coverage that best fits their individual needs. To make insurance more affordable, Congress must act to address rapidly rising health care costs. Small businesses should be able to band together and negotiate for lower insurance rates so they can cover more workers with health insurance.

I urge you to pass Association Health Plans. I ask you to give lower-income Americans a refundable tax credit that would allow millions to buy their own basic health insurance. By computerizing health records, we can avoid

dangerous medical mistakes, reduce costs, and improve care. To protect the doctor-patient relationship and keep good doctors doing good work, we must eliminate wasteful and frivolous medical lawsuits. And tonight I propose that individuals who buy catastrophic health care coverage as part of our new health savings accounts be allowed to deduct 100 percent of the premiums from their taxes.

A government-run health care system is the wrong prescription. By keeping costs under control, expanding access and helping more Americans afford coverage, we will preserve the system of private medicine that makes America's health care the best in the world.

We are living in a time of great change in our world, in our economy, and in science and medicine. Yet some things endure: courage and compassion, reverence and integrity, respect for differences of faith and race. The values we try to live by never change; and they are instilled in us by fundamental institutions, such as families and schools and religious congregations. These institutions, the unseen pillars of civilization, must remain strong in America, and we will defend them.

We must stand with our families to help them raise healthy, responsible children. When it comes to helping children make right choices, there is work for all of us to do.

One of the worst decisions our children can make is to gamble their lives and futures on drugs. Our government is helping parents confront this problem with aggressive education, treatment, and law enforcement. Drug use in high school has declined by 11 percent over the past 2 years. 400,000 fewer young people are using illegal drugs than in the year 2001.

In my budget, I have proposed new funding to continue our aggressive community-based strategy to reduce demand for illegal drugs. Drug testing in our schools has proven to be an effective part of this effort. So tonight I propose an additional \$23 million for schools that want to use drug testing as a tool to save children's lives. The aim here is not to punish children, but to send them this message: we love you, and we do not want to lose you.

To help children make right choices, they need good examples. Athletics play such an important role in our society; but, unfortunately, some in professional sports are not setting much of an example. The use of performance-enhancing drugs like steroids in baseball, football and other sports, is dangerous; and it sends the wrong message, that there are shortcuts to accomplishment and that performance is more important than character.

So tonight I call on team owners, union representatives, coaches and players to take the lead, to send the right signal, to get tough, and to get rid of steroids now.

To encourage right choices, we must be willing to confront the dangers

young people face, even when they are difficult to talk about. Each year, about 3 million teenagers contract sexually transmitted diseases that can harm them or kill them or prevent them from ever becoming parents. In my budget, I propose a grassroots campaign to help inform families about these medical risks. We will double Federal funding for abstinence programs so schools can teach this fact of life: abstinence for young people is the only certain way to avoid sexually transmitted diseases. Decisions children now make can affect their health and character for the rest of their lives. All of us, parents, schools and government, must work together to counter the negative influence of the culture and to send the right messages to our children.

A strong America must also value the institution of marriage. I believe we should respect individuals as we take a principled stand for one of the most fundamental, enduring institutions of our civilization. Congress has already taken a stand on this issue by passing the Defense of Marriage Act, signed in 1996 by President Clinton. That statute protects marriage under Federal law as the union of a man and a woman, and declares that one State may not redefine marriage for other States. Activist judges, however, have begun redefining marriage by court order, without regard for the will of the people and their elected representatives. On an issue of such great consequence, the people's voice must be heard. If judges insist on forcing their arbitrary will upon the people, the only alternative left to the people would be the constitutional process. Our Nation must defend the sanctity of marriage.

The outcome of this debate is important, and so is the way we conduct it. The same moral tradition that defines marriage also teaches that each individual has dignity and value in God's sight.

It is also important to strengthen our communities by unleashing the compassion of America's religious institutions. Religious charities of every creed are doing some of the most vital work in our country: mentoring children, feeding the hungry, taking the hand of the lonely. Yet government has often denied social service grants and contracts to these groups, just because they have a cross or a star of David or a crescent on the wall. By executive order, I have opened billions of dollars in grant money to competition that includes faith-based charities. Tonight I ask you to codify this into law, so people of faith can know that the law will never discriminate against them again.

In the past, we have worked together to bring mentors to children of prisoners and provide treatment for the addicted and help for the homeless. Tonight I ask you to consider another group of Americans in need of help. This year, some 600,000 inmates will be released from prison back into society. We know from long experience that if

they cannot find work or a home or help, they are much more likely to commit more crimes and return to prison. So tonight, I propose a 4-year, \$300 million Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative to expand job training and placement services, to provide transitional housing, and to help newly released prisoners get mentoring, including from faith-based groups. America is the land of second chance; and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life.

For all Americans, the last 3 years have brought tests we did not ask for and achievements shared by all. By our actions, we have shown what kind of Nation we are. In grief, we have found the grace to go on. In challenge, we rediscovered the courage and daring of a free people. In victory, we have shown the noble aims and good heart of America. And having come this far, we sense that we live in a time set apart.

I have been a witness to the character of the people of America, who have shown calm in times of danger, compassion for one another, and toughness for the long haul. All of us have been partners in a great enterprise. And even some of the youngest understand that we are living in historic times. Last month a girl in Lincoln, Rhode Island, sent me a letter. It began, "Dear George W. Bush. If there is anything you know I, Ashley Pearson, age 10 can do to help anyone, please send me a letter and tell me what I can do to save our country." She added this P.S.: "If you can send a letter to the troops, please put, 'Ashley Pearson believes in you.'"

Tonight, Ashley, your message to our troops has just been conveyed. And, yes, you have some duties yourself. Study hard in school, listen to your mom and dad, help someone in need, and when you and your friends see a man or woman in uniform, say "thank you." And, Ashley, while you do your part, all of us here in this great Chamber will do our best to keep you and the rest of America safe and free.

My fellow citizens, we now move forward with courage and faith. Our Nation is strong and steadfast. The cause we serve is right because it is the cause of all mankind. The momentum of freedom in our world is unmistakable, and it is not carried forward by our power alone. We can trust in that greater power Who guides the unfolding of the years. And in all that is to come, we can know that His purposes are just and true.

May God continue to bless America. (Applause, the Members rising.)

At 10 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m., the President of the United States, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The members of the President's Cabinet.

The Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT SESSION DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 10 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move that the message of the President be referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered printed.

The motion was agreed to.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of business in the district.

Ms. BALDWIN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of travel problems.

Mr. CRAMER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of family illness.

Mr. NADLER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and January 21 on account of official business.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a death in the family.

Ms. DUNN (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of illness.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of being detained in his district.

Mr. EVERETT (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and January 21 on account of having the flu.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MEEK of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SOLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. WU, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. LEVIN, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. McDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, January 27.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1172. An act to establish grants to provide health services for improved nutrition, increased physical activity, obesity prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

S. 1177. An act to prevent tobacco smuggling, to ensure the collection of all tobacco taxes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

S. 1267. An act to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to provide the District of Columbia with autonomy over its budgets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Government Reform; in addition to the Committee on Rules for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned; and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 2000. An act to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 2 years; to the Committee on Government Reform; in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned; and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 21, 2004, at 10 a.m.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

U.S. CONGRESS,
 OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE,
 Washington, DC, December 8, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
 Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
 Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER:

WITHDRAWAL OF NOTICE OF PROPOSED SUBSTANTIVE RULE MAKING, AND ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

On November 13, 2001, the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance submitted proposed substantive rules for comment, pursuant to section 4(c)(4) of the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 ("VEOA") (2 U.S.C. 1316a(4)), and section 304(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1384(b)). The proposed substantive rules would implement section 4(c) of the VEOA, which affords to covered employees of the legislative branch the rights and protections of selected provisions of veterans' preference law. The Notice of Proposed Rule Making was printed in the Congressional Record on December 6, 2001 at H9065, et seq., and S12539 et seq.

In response to that Notice, the Board of Directors received comments which addressed the difficulty in promulgating regulations applying substantive veterans' preference rights in the absence of formal civil service merit personnel systems in the legislative branch. In view of the comments, and upon further consideration, the Board has decided to withdraw the notice of proposed rule making of November 13, 2001, printed in the Congressional Record of December 6, 2001.

The Board of Directors has initiated a new process of drafting proposed substantive regulations which would implement section 4(c) of the VEOA. The Board invites the informal input of interested parties in advance of the Board's completion of new draft regulations and publication of a new Notice of Proposed Rule Making in the future. Interested parties are invited to contact the Executive Director of the Office of Compliance, Room LA-200, 110 2nd Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20540; 202-724-9250, TDD 202-426-1912.

We request that this notice be published in the Congressional Record. Any inquiries regarding this notice should be addressed to the Office of Compliance at our address above, or by telephone or TDD.

Sincerely,

SUSAN S. ROBFOGEL,
 Chair.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5945. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Ports of Entry for Certain Plants and Plants Products [Docket No. 03-067-1] received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5946. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Pine Shoot Beetle; Additions to Quarantined Areas [Docket No. 03-120-1] received January 13, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5947. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's

final rule—Golden Nematode; Regulated Areas [Docket No. 03-082-1] received January 13, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5948. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Karnal Bunt; Regulated Areas [Docket No. 03-047-1] received January 13, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5949. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Science & Technology, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Removal of Cottonseed Chemist Licensing Program, Updating of Commodity Laboratory and Office Addresses, and Adoption of Information Symbols [Docket Number ST02-03] (RIN: 0581-AC18) received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5950. A letter from the Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tomatoes Grown in Florida; Increased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV03-966-4 FR] received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5951. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Fluroxypyr; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-2003-0377; FRL-7340-5] received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5952. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Cyprodinil; Time-Limited Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-2003-0394; FRL-7337-5] received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5953. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Vinclozolin; Time-Limited Pesticide Tolerances Technical Correction [OPP-2003-0311; FRL-7337-7] received December 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5954. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions Multiple Chemicals [OPP-2003-0402; FRL-7339-8] received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5955. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the request and availability of funds for the Department of the Treasury's Counterterrorism Fund, pursuant to Public Law 106-554; (H. Doc. No. 108-148); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

5956. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request to make the subsidy budget authority necessary to support a \$30 million Federal credit instrument for World Airways, Inc.; (H. Doc. No. 108-150); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

5957. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting in accordance with provisions of the "1997 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from Natural Disasters, and for Overseas Peacekeeping Efforts, Including those in Bosnia" (Public Law 105-18), a request to make available emergency funding for the Department of the Interior's National Park Service; (H. Doc. No. 108-151); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

5958. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report

of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Navy, Case Number 02-11, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

5959. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Navy, Case Number 02-10, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

5960. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

5961. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the Evaluation of Training, Knowledge, and Resources Regarding Negotiation of Intellectual Property Arrangements, pursuant to Section 821 of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2003 (Pub. L. 107-314); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5962. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting as required by 41 U.S.C. 253(c)(7) and 10 U.S.C. 2304(c)(7), notice of determination that it is in the public interest that only firms from the United States, Iraq, and Coalition partners and force contributing nations should be eligible to compete for prime contracts for Iraq relief and reconstruction; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5963. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a notice that the Department of the Navy is pursuing a multiyear procurement (MYP) for the fiscal year 2004 through fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5964. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's quarterly report as of September 30, 2003, entitled, "Acceptance of contributions for defense programs, projects and activities; Defense Cooperation Account," pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5965. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a notice that the Department of the Navy is pursuing a multiyear procurement (MYP) for the fiscal year 2005 through fiscal year 2009 with advance procurement in FY 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5966. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2004-10 on Waiver of Conditions on Obligation and Expenditure of Funds for Planning, Design, and Construction of a Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Russia; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5967. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule—Home Mortgage Disclosure [Regulation C; Docket No. R-1178] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5968. A letter from the Assistant Director, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Reporting and Disclosure Requirements for National Banks with Securities Registered Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; Securities Offering Disclosure Rules [Docket No. 03-25] (RIN: 1557-AC12) received December 11, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5969. A letter from the Acting General Counsel/FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No. FEMA-7823] received January

15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5970. A letter from the Acting General Counsel/FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations—received January 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5971. A letter from the Acting General Counsel/FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-D-7549] received January 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5972. A letter from the Acting General Counsel/FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Final Flood Elevation Determinations—received January 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5973. A letter from the Acting General Counsel/FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Final Flood Elevation Determinations—received January 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5974. A letter from the Acting General Counsel/FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Final Flood Elevation Determinations—received January 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5975. A letter from the Acting General Counsel/FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations—received January 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5976. A letter from the Acting General Counsel/FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-P-7630] received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5977. A letter from the Acting General Counsel/FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations—received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5978. A letter from the Acting General Counsel/FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Final Flood Elevation Determinations—received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5979. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—FHA TOTAL Mortgage Scorecard [Docket No. FR-4835-C-02] (RIN: 2502-A100) received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5980. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a report involving U.S. exports to Thailand, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)(i); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5981. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—Title I—Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged (RIN: 1810-AA95) received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5982. A letter from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, transmitting a copy of the Executive Summary to the Energy Information Administration's (EIA) eleventh annual report, entitled "Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 2002," pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 790f(a)(2); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5983. A letter from the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Confirmation of Effective Date of Rules Declaring Metal-Cored Candlewicks Containing Lead and Candles With Such Wicks To Be Hazardous Substances and Banning Them—received September 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5984. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—Acquisition Regulations; Conditional Payment of Fee, Profit, and Other Incentives (RIN: 1991-AB54) received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5985. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Sta., FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Skin Protectant Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use; Final Monograph; Technical Amendment [Docket Nos. 78N-0021 and 78N-021P] (RIN: 0910-AA01) received December 18, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5986. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Medicaid Program; Time Limitation on Recordkeeping Requirements Under the Drug Rebate Program [CMS-2175-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AM20) received December 31, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5987. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report entitled "Increasing Access to Health Care for Certain Non-elderly, Low-Income Populations Who Were Not Otherwise Qualified to Receive Medicaid Benefits," submitted in response to section 4745 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1990, Public Law 101-508; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5988. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report entitled "Study of the Impact of Boren Amendment Repeal," in response to the requirements of Public Law 105-33, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5989. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting as required by Sections 913(b)(2) and Section 902(g) of the Healthcare Research and Quality Act of 1999 (Pub. L. 106-129), reports entitled "The National Healthcare Quality Report" (NHQR) and "The National Healthcare Disparities Report" (NHDR); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5990. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified, Ventura County, Santa Barbara County, and Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control Districts and Yolo Solano, Bay Area, and Mojave Desert Air Quality Management Districts [CA 259-0425; FRL-7598-1] received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5991. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final

rule—Control of Emissions from Highway Motorcycles [AMS-FRL-7604-8] received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5992. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Operating Permits Program; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District [CA 110-OPPa; FRL-7603-1] received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5993. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Amendments to Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources; Monitoring Requirements [OAR-2003-0009; FRL-7604-9] received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5994. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; MOBILE6-Based Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets for the Delaware Portion of the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Trenton 1-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area [DE072-1042a; FRL-7593-5] received December 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5995. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Oxides of Nitrogen Regulations [IN159-1a; FRL-7598-6] received December 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5996. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Utah; State Implementation Plan Corrections [SIP NO. UT-001-0048, UT-001-0049, FRL-7593-2] received December 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5997. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds from Consumer Products [MD152-3105a; FRL-7596-4] received December 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5998. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Control of Emissions From Existing Commercial/Industrial Solid Waste Incinerator Units; Nevada [NV108-SW1a; FRL-7595-5] received December 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5999. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Final Approval of Revision of 34 Clean Air Act Title V Operating Permits Programs [CA107-OPP-FRL-7589-8] received December 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6000. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Interim Final Determination to Stay and Defer Sanctions, South Coast Air Qual-

ity Management District [CA 296-0427; FRL-7594-2] received December 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6001. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Louisiana: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [FRL-7597-5] received December 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6002. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to New Mexico [NM-40-2-744a; FRL-7598-8] received December 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6003. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [CA255-0426; FRL-7597-4] received December 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6004. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District [CA 259-0421; FRL-7588-7] received December 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6005. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District [CA 296-0427a; FRL-7593-9] received December 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6006. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District [CA 291-0424a; FRL-7590-7] received December 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6007. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets for 2005 and 2007 using MOBILE6.2 for the Connecticut portion of the New York-New Jersey-Long Island nonattainment area and for 2007 for the Greater Connecticut nonattainment area [CT-057-7216e; A-1-FRL-7600-2] received December 15, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6008. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Significant New Uses of Certain Chemical Substances [OPPT-2002-0078; FRL-7307-3] [RIN: 2070-AB27] received December 15, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6009. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Emission Standards for Gasoline Distribution Facilities (Bulk Gasoline Terminals and Pipeline Breakout Stations) [OAR-2002-0029, FRL-7599-9] [RIN: 2060-AJ42] received December 15, 2003, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6010. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Memphis-Shelby County; Revised Format for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference [TN-200328; FRL-7596-6] received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6011. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans for Kentucky; Permit Provisions for Jefferson County, Kentucky; Partial Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule [KY-145-200339(w); FRL-7600-4] received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6012. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) [AD-FRL-7601-5] [RIN: 2050-AK28] received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6013. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Delegation of National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Source Categories; State of California [CARB-106-DELa; FRL-7600-5] received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6014. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the Regional Haze Rule to Correct Mobile Source Provisions in Optional Program for Nine Western States and Eligible Indian Tribes Within that Geographic Area [FRL-7601-4] [RIN: 2060-AL80] received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6015. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Amendments to the Phase 2 Requirements for Spark-Ignition Nonroad Engines at or below 19 Kilowatts [AMS-FRL-7606-1] [RIN: 2060-AL80] received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6016. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Kentucky Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference [KY-200404; FRL-7601-2] received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6017. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa; Correction [IA 200-1200; FRL-7608-3] received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6018. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Kansas [KS 202-1202; FRL-7608-9] received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6019. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection

Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri [Mo 201-1201; FRL-7608-8] received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6020. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Disapproval of State Implementation Plan Revisions, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [CA255-0431; FRL-7607-6] received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6021. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District [CA 289-0418a; FRL-7600-9] received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6022. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—State Implementation Plans; States of Arizona, California, and Nevada; Correction [CA 105-CORR FRL-7609-4] received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6023. A letter from the Chief, Policy and Rules Division, OET, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Revision of Part 2 and 15 of the Commission's Rules to Permit Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices in the 5 GHz Band [ET Docket No. 03-122; RM-10371] received January 5, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6024. A letter from the Legal Advisor, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Elimination of Experimental Broadcast Ownership Restrictions [MM Docket No. 00-105] received January 5, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6025. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Springfield, Tennessee, Oak Grove and Trenton, Kentucky) [MB Docket No. 03-132; RM-10709] received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6026. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, Digital Television Broadcast Stations. (Corpus Christi, Texas) [MM Docket No. 00-198; RM-9980] received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6027. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, Digital Television Broadcast Stations. (Juneau, Alaska) [MB Docket No. 03-97; RM-10683] received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6028. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Marble Falls and Dripping Springs, Texas) [MB Docket No. 03-195; RM-10745] received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6029. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Worcester and Westborough, Massachusetts) [MM Docket No. 02-49; RM-10220] received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6030. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Conway and Vilonia, Arkansas) [MB Docket No. 03-23; RM-10633] received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6031. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Ravenwood, West Virginia and Racine, Ohio) [MB Docket No. 03-22; RM-10597] received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6032. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Ash Fork, Chino Valley, Dolan Springs, Fredonia, Gilbert, Peach Springs, Seligman, and Tusayan, Arizona; Moapa Valley, Nevada; Beaver and Cedar City Utah) [MM Docket No. 02-12; RM-10356; RM-10551; RM-10553; RM-10554] received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6033. A letter from the Deputy Division Chief, WTB/Broadband Div., Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Service Rules for Advanced Wireless Services in the 1.7 GHz and 2.1 GHz Bands [WT Docket No. 02-353] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6034. A letter from the Deputy Division Chief, Competition Policy Div., Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility With Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems [CC Docket No. 94-102; Amendment of Parts 2 and 25 to Implement the Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS) Memorandum of Understanding and Arrangements; Petition of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to Amend Parts 25 of the Commission's Rules to Establish Emissions Limits for Mobile and Portable Earth Stations Operating in the 1610-1660.5 MHz Band [IB Docket No. 99-67] Received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6035. A letter from the Chief, WTB/Broadband Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility With Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems Non-Initialized Phones [CC Docket No. 94-102; RM-8143] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6036. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Allocation and Des-

ignation of Spectrum for Fixed-Satellite Services in the 37.5-38.5 GHz, 40.5-41.5 GHz and 48.2-50.2 GHz Frequency Bands; Allocation of Spectrum to Upgrade Fixed and Mobile Allocation in the 40.5-42.5 GHz Frequency Band; Allocation of Spectrum in the 46.9-47.0 GHz Frequency Band for Wireless Services; and Allocation of Spectrum in the 37.0-38.0 GHz and 40.0-40.5 GHz for Government Operations [IB Docket No. 97-95] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6037. A letter from the Deputy Chief, WCB/TAPD, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism [CC Docket No. 02-6] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6038. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Station. (Carrizozo, New Mexico) [MB Docket No. 03-69; RM-10664] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6039. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Salina, Utah) [MB Docket No. 02-166; RM-10478] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6040. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Centerville, Texas) [MB Docket No. 02-128; RM-10450] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6041. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Hartington, Nebraska) [MB Docket No. 02-121; RM-10443; RM-10665] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6042. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Alpine and Presidio, Texas) [MB Docket No. 02-239; RM-10529; RM-10711] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6043. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Silverton, Texas) [MB Docket No. 03-72; RM-10674; (Leedey, Oklahoma) [MB Docket No. 03-73; RM-10675]; (Memphis, Texas) [MB Docket No. 03-75; RM-10677] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6044. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations.

(Meridianville, Tuscumbia, Carrolton, and Gurley, Alabama) [MB Docket No. 02-114; RM-10426] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6045. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor, Chief Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Implementation of Section 304 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 [CS Docket No. 97-80]; Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices; Compatibility Between Cable Systems and Consumer Electronics Equipment [PP Docket No. 00-67] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6046. A letter from the Sr. Legal Advisor to the Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Reexamination of the Comparative Standard for Noncommercial Educational Applicants; Association of America's Public Television Stations' Motion for Stay of Low Power Television Auction (No.81) [MM Docket No. 95-31] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6047. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting the second report of 2003 as required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987, Public Law 100-203, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 10268; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6048. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the Libya emergency is to continue in effect beyond January 7, 2004, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 108-147); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

6049. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification stating that the emergency declared with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process is to continue in effect beyond January 23, 2004, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 108-152); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

6050. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification to terminate the national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone in Executive Order 13194 of January 18, 2001, and expanded in scope with respect to Liberia by Executive Order 13213 of May 22, 2001, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(a); (H. Doc. No. 108-153); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

6051. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the Department of the Defense's proposed lease of defense articles to the Government of Tajikistan (Transmittal No. 01-04), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2796a(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6052. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 27-03 which informs you of our intent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Maritime Missile Defense Projects between the United States, Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

6053. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 25-03 which informs you of our intent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning Standard Missile Upgrades and Improvements between the United States, Canada, Germany, and The Netherlands, pur-

suant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

6054. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 24-03 which informs you of our intent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States and The Netherlands Concerning Test and Evaluation Program Cooperation (TEP MOU), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

6055. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 26-03 which informs of an intent to sign a Project Agreement concerning Non-acoustic Sensing Aid and Nonlinear Dynamics between the United States and Sweden, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

6056. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6057. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6058. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6059. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification for FY 2003 that no United Nations organization or United Nations affiliated agency grants and official status, accreditation, or recognition to any organization which promotes, condones, or seeks the legalization of pedophilia, or which includes as a subsidiary or member any such organization, pursuant to Public Law 103-236, section 565(b) (108 Stat. 845); to the Committee on International Relations.

6060. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on additional steps taken with respect to the national emergency declared in Proclamation 7463 of September 14, 2001 and consistent with Executive Order 12396 of December 9, 1982, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1631 10 U.S.C. 603; (H. Doc. No. 108-149); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

6061. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report of the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001; to the Committee on International Relations.

6062. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation that was

declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000; to the Committee on International Relations.

6063. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting Pursuant to the Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000 (title II of division B of H.R. 5666, as enacted by section 1(a)(4) of Public Law 106-554 and contained in appendix D of that Act; 114 Stat. 2763A-255) as amended, a report on the financial balances of the Vietnam Education Foundation for 2003; to the Committee on International Relations.

6064. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Report on Withdrawal of Russian Armed Forces and Military Equipment, pursuant to paragraph 5(D) of the Senate's resolution of advice and consent of the ratification of the CFE Flank Document; to the Committee on International Relations.

6065. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to Section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with section 1(a)(6) of Executive Order 13313, a report prepared by the Department of State and the National Security Council on the progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period October 1 through November 30, 2003; to the Committee on International Relations.

6066. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: United States Munitions List—received December 10, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

6067. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of intent to obligate funds for purposes of Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund (NDF) activities, pursuant to Public Law 102-511, section 508(a) Public Law 108-7, section 515; to the Committee on International Relations.

6068. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of export of Items to Iraq in the National Interest of the United States pursuant to section 1504 of the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriation Act, 2003 (Transmittal No. DTC 04IZ-03); to the Committee on International Relations.

6069. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2004-09 on Waiving Prohibition on United States Military Assistance to Parties to the Rome Statute Establishing the International Criminal Court, pursuant to Public Law 107-206; to the Committee on International Relations.

6070. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of the Presidential Determination No. 2004-14, Imposition and Waiver of Sanctions Under Section 604 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003; to the Committee on International Relations.

6071. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of intent to obligate funds for purposes of Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund (NDF) activities; to the Committee on International Relations.

6072. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 and the FREEDOM Support Act; to the Committee on International Relations.

6073. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, President's Pay Agent, transmitting a report justifying the reasons for the extension of locality-based comparability payments to categories of positions that are in more than one executive agency, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5304(h)(2)(C); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6074. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the semiannual report of the activities of the Office of Inspector General during the six month period ending September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6075. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Education, transmitting a corrected semiannual report of the activities of the Office of Inspector General during the six month period ending September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6076. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report of surplus real property transferred for public health purposes for October 1, 2002, through September 30, 2003, pursuant to Public Law 100-77, section 601 (101 Stat. 515); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6077. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of the Interior, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2003, through September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6078. A letter from the Chairman of the Board, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for the period April 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6079. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-255, "Elimination of Outdated Crimes Amendment Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6080. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-256, "Marriage and Family Therapy Amendment Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6081. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-251, "Income From Discrimination Exclusion Temporary Amendment Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6082. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-254, "Certified Capital Companies Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6083. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-250, "Charity Auction Sales Tax Exemption Temporary Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6084. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-249, "Medical Support Establishment and Enforcement Temporary Amendment Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6085. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a

copy of D.C. ACT 15-247, "Eastern Avenue Tour Bus Parking Temporary Amendment Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6086. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-248, "Freedom of Information Legislative Records Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6087. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-246, "Unemployment Compensation Funds Appropriation Authorization Temporary Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6088. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-245, "Presidential Primary Petition and Filing Waiver Temporary Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6089. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-244, "PSA Restructuring Council Review Temporary Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6090. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-243, "Emmaus Rehabilitation Project Real Property Exemption Temporary Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6091. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-242, "Tax Increment Financing Reauthorization Date Temporary Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6092. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-241, "Freedom Forum Newseum Real Property Tax Exemption and Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Temporary Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6093. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-240, "Authorization of the Spending of the Commercial Trust Fund Temporary Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6094. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-239, "Nurse Staffing Agency Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6095. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-238, "Comprehensive Housing Strategy Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6096. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-259, "Utility Rate Payers Amendment Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6097. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-260, "Closing of a Portion of a Public Alley in Square 2677, S.O. 03-0208, Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6098. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a

copy of D.C. ACT 15-261, "Housing and Community Development Reform Advisory Commission Temporary Amendment Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6099. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-262, "Washington Convention Center Authority Term Limit Temporary Amendment Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6100. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-263, "Towing Regulation and Enforcement Authority Temporary Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6101. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-264, "Parking Meter Fee Moratorium Temporary Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6102. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-265, "Real Property Classification Clarification Temporary Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6103. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-266, "National Capital Medical Center Negotiation Temporary Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6104. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-267, "Presidential Primary State Committee Elections Temporary Amendment Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6105. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-268, "Citizens with Mental Retardation Substituted Consent for Health Care Decisions Temporary Amendment Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6106. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-269, "Rehabilitation Services Program Establishment Temporary Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6107. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-270, "Procurement Practices Vendor Payment Revised Approval Authorization Temporary Amendment Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6108. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-271, "Inspector General Appointment and Term Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6109. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-272, "Board of Education Campaign Contribution Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6110. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-274, "Automated Traffic Enforcement Fund Temporary Amendment Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section

1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6111. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-286, "Uniform Trust Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6112. A letter from the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2003, through September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6113. A letter from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2003 to September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6114. A letter from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6115. A letter from the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting the semiannual report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2003 through October 31, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6116. A letter from the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6117. A letter from the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6118. A letter from the Chair, CPB Board of Directors, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, transmitting the semiannual report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6119. A letter from the Assistant Director, Executive & Political Personnel, Department of the Army, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6120. A letter from the Secretary, Mississippi River Commission, Department of the Army, transmitting a copy of the annual report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act covering the calendar year 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6121. A letter from the Assistant Director, Executive & Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6122. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the twenty-ninth Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-Up, covering the period April 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6123. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the annual report concerning surplus Federal real prop-

erty disposed of to educational institutions, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 484(o); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6124. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003, pursuant to Public Law 95—452, section 5(b) (102 Stat. 2526); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6125. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6126. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Justice, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6127. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6128. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6129. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6130. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6131. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

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6133. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6134. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6135. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6136. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6137. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6138. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6139. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6140. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2003 Annual Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6141. A letter from the Acting Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) review of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC's) Year 2003 Inventories of Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities in accordance with the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6142. A letter from the Chair, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Inspector General and management's report for the period ending September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6143. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting the FY 2003 annual report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) of 1982, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6144. A letter from the Director, Financial Management, General Accounting Office, transmitting the FY 2003 annual report of the Comptroller General's Retirement System, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9503(a)(1)(B); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6145. A letter from the Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting information concerning GAO employees who were assigned to congressional committees during fiscal year 2003, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 719(b)(1)(C); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6146. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the FY 2003 Annual Performance and Accountability Report in accordance with the Report Consolidation Act of 2000; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6147. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting notification of the new mileage reimbursement rates for Federal employees who use privately owned vehicles while on official travel, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5707(b)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6148. A letter from the President, James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, transmitting the consolidated annual reports under the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act of 1982, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6149. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Inspector General for April 1, 2003, through September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6150. A letter from the Chairman and General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General of the National Labor Relations Board for the period April 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6151. A letter from the Chairman, National Mediation Board, transmitting the FY 2003 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6152. A letter from the Chairman, National Science Board, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2003

through September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6153. A letter from the Chairman, National Science Board, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6154. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the FY 2003 annual report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) of 1982, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6155. A letter from the Deputy Director for Admin. & Info. Mgmt., Office of Government Ethics, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6156. A letter from the Director, Office of Transition Administration, Panama Canal Commission, transmitting the FY 2003 annual report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6157. A letter from the Director, Peace Corps, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6158. A letter from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2003, through September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(d); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6159. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting a report on the management controls of the Commission for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6160. A letter from the Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting the semiannual report of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, through September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6161. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. International Trade Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6162. A letter from the Chair, United States Access Board, transmitting the Board's consolidated report for the Inspector General Act and the Federal Financial Manager's Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3) 5 app. #Public Law 100—504, section 104(a) (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6163. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting a copy of the annual report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during the calendar year 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6164. A letter from the Chair, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Statement of Policy Regarding Disclosure of Closed Enforcement and Related Files [Notice 2003-25] received December 15, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on House Administration.

6165. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the 1998, 1999, and 2000 annual reports of the Fish and Wildlife Service on the reasonably identifiable expenditures for the conservation of endangered or threatened species by Federal and State agencies, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1544; to the Committee on Resources.

6166. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Final Engineering Report (FER) and incorporated Water Conservation Plan for the Perkins County Rural Water System, pursuant to Public Law 106—136, section 4(b)(2); to the Committee on Resources.

6167. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Kentucky Regulatory Program [KY-245-FOR] received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6168. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Indiana Regulatory Program [IN-153-FOR; Administrative Cause No. 02-034R] received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6169. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting a proposed plan under the Indian Tribal Judgment Funds Act, 25 U.S.C. 1401 et seq., as amended, for the use and distribution of the Mescalero Apache Tribe judgment funds in Docket 92-403L; to the Committee on Resources.

6170. A letter from the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Rules Applicable to Public Land Hearings and Appeals (RIN: 1090-AA84) received December 18, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6171. A letter from the Chairman, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of fee regulations (RIN: 3141-AA16) received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6172. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Transfer [Docket No. 021122284-2323-02; I.D. 121803C] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6173. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for New Jersey [Docket No. 021122284-2323-02; I.D. 121803A] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6174. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Shortraker/Rougheye and Northern Rockfish in the Bering Sea Subarea and "Other Species" in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 031126295-3295-01; I.D. 121703A] received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6175. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final

rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; North Pacific Halibut and Sablefish IFQ Coast Recovery Program [Docket No. 991207325-0063-02; I.D. 100699A] received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6176. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea subarea [Docket No. 021212307-3037-02; I.D.092603C] received December 11, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6177. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [I.D. 120903A] received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6178. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [I.D. 122303H] received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6179. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area [Docket No. 021212307-3037-02; I.D. 120303A] received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6180. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Shark Management Measures [Docket No. 030721180-3315-02; I.D. 010903D] received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6181. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Interim 2004 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No. 031126295-3295-01; I.D. 111703B] received December 11, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6182. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Taking of Threatened or Endangered Species Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan [Docket No. 030221039-3309-04; I.D. 120903E] (RIN: 0648-AQ04) received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6183. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 10 [Docket No. 030908224-3325-02; I.D. 080403B] (RIN: 0648-AM23) received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6184. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final

rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Off Alaska; Salmon Fisheries off the Coast of Alaska [Docket No. 030314059-3326-03; I.D. 062003A] (RIN: 0648-AQ48) received January 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6185. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; 2004 Fishing Quotas for Atlantic Surfclams, Ocean Quahogs, and Maine Mahogany Ocean Quahogs [Docket No. 031015257-3308-02; I.D. 101603A] (RIN: 0648-AQ79) received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6186. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 031022265-3298-02; I.D. 092203E] (RIN: 0648-AQ93) received December 10, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6187. A letter from the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting Notice that the government will not intervene in *Tennessee Student Assistance Corp. v. Hood*, S. Ct. No. 02-1606; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6188. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the 2002 Annual Report of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6189. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the redesignation as "foreign terrorist organizations" pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, and amended by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, and by the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT ACT) of 2001; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6190. A letter from the Acting President and Chief of Sport Performance, Olympic Committee, transmitting the 2002 Annual Report of the United States Olympic Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6191. A letter from the Chair, Sentencing Commission, transmitting a report responding to the congressional directive on downwards departures in the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003, Pub. L. 108-21 (the PROTECT Act); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6192. A letter from the Architect of the Capitol, transmitting in accordance with Conference Report, H. Rpt. 108-279, "Making Appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes," notification of intent (30 days in advance) to start the eastern portion of the Library of Congress (LOC) tunnel excavation; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6193. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulation Change, St. Croix River, Minnesota and Wisconsin [CGD08-02-035] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6194. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the De-

partment's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Biscayne Bay, Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Miami River, Miami-Dade County, Florida [CGD07-03-141] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6195. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Rice Creek, Putnam County, FL [CGD07-03-094] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6196. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Security Zone; Port Hueneme Harbor, Ventura County, CA [COTP Los Angeles-Long Beach 01-013] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6197. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Safety and Security Zone; Cove Point Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal, Chesapeake Bay, MD [CGD05-03-023] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6198. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Safety/Security Zone; Cove Point Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal, Chesapeake Bay, Maryland [CGD05-03-204] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6199. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Security Zone; Suisan Bay, Concord, California [COTP San Francisco Bay 03-027] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6200. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Safety Zone; Lockwood Folly Inlet, NC [CGD05-03-199] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6201. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 134 West of the Harvey Locks, Louisiana, LA [COTP Morgan City-03-011] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6202. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Security Zone; Suisan Bay, Concord, California [COTP San Francisco Bay 03-030] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6203. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Security Zones; Charleston Harbor, Cooper River, SC [COTP Charleston-03-171] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received

January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6204. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Security Zone; Renaissance Center, Cobo Hall, North American International Auto Show, Detroit River, Detroit, MI [CGD09-03-289] (RIN: 2115-AA00) received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6205. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Rates for Pilotage on the Great Lakes [USCG-2002-11288] (RIN: 1625-AA38) received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6206. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Anchorage Grounds; Delaware Bay and River [CGD05-03-195] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6207. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operations; Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, New Orleans, LA [CGD08-03-030] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6208. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Mississippi River, Dubuque, Iowa [CGD08-03-048] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6209. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Validation of merchant mariners' vital information and issuance of Coast Guard Merchant Mariner's Documents (MMDs) [USCG-2003-14500] (RIN: 1625-AA81) received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6210. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Deepwater Ports [USCG-1998-3884] (RIN: 1625-AA20) received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6211. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report on the results of a study on the effects of Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) grant reductions, pursuant to Public Law 105-178, section 4032; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6212. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330-301, -321, -322, -341, and -342 Airplanes [Docket No. 2001-NM-353-AD; Amendment 39-13341; AD 2003-21-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6213. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Manokotak, AK [Docket No. FAA-2003-16083;

Airspace Docket No. 03-AAL-19] received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6214. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model AS332C, C1, L, L1, AS350B, BA, B1, B2, B3 and D, and AS355E, F, F1, F2 and N Helicopters [Docket No. 2003-SW-15-AD; Amendment 39-13384; AD 2003-25-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6215. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Corporation (Formerly Allison Engine Company) AE 3007A1, AE 3007A1/1, AE 3007A1/3, AE 3007A3, AE 3007 A1E, and AE 3007A1P Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 2003-NE-19-AD; Amendment 39-13391; AD 2003-25-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6216. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; York, PA; Correction [Docket No. FAA-2003-16291; Airspace Docket No. 03-AEA-08] received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6217. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Gettysburg, PA; Correction [Docket No. FAA-2003-15228; Airspace Docket No. 03-AEA-04] received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6218. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; Charlottesville, VA; Correction [Docket No. FAA-2003-15789; Airspace Docket No. 03-AEA-09] received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6219. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; New York, NY [Docket No. FAA-2003-16180; Airspace Docket No. 03-AEA-14] received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6220. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; New York, and New Jersey [Docket No. FAA-2003-16614; Airspace Docket No. 03-AEA-17] received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6221. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Mentasta Lake/Mountains Area, AK [Docket No. FAA-2003-16075; Airspace Docket No. 03-AAL-18] received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6222. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Federal Transit Administration's Study and Report to Congress: Applicability of Maximum Axle Weight Limitations to Over-the-Road and Public Transit Buses, submitted pursuant to Section 339 of Senate Report No.

107-38 regarding the Department of Transportation's appropriations for FY 2002; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6223. A letter from the Senior Attorney, RSPA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Pipeline Safety: Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Operator Annual Reports [Docket No. RSPA-01-9832; Amdt. 195-80] (RIN: 2137-AD59) received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6224. A letter from the Trial Attorney, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Computer Reservations System (CRS) Regulations [Dockets Nos. OST-97-2881, OST-97-3014, OST-98-4775, and OST-99-5888] (RIN: 2105-AC65) received January 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6225. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Greenfield, IA [Docket No. FAA-2003-16504; Airspace Docket No. 03-ACE-88] received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6226. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Kingman, KS [Docket No. FAA-2003-16081-; Airspace Docket No. 03-ACE-73] received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6227. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Great Bend, KS [Docket No. FAA-2003-16080; Airspace Docket No. 03-ACE-72] received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6228. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class D and E Airspace; Ormond Beach, FL [Docket No. FAA-2003-15466; Airspace Docket No. 03-ASO-9] received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6229. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Cherokee, IA [Docket No. FAA-2003-16505; Airspace Docket No. 03-ACE-89] received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6230. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Aging Airplane Safety [Docket No. 1999-5401; Amendment No. 135-92] (RIN: 2120-AE42) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6231. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Winterset, IA [Docket No. FAA-2003-16503; Airspace Docket No. 03-ACE-87] received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6232. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Gettysburg,

PA [Docket No. FAA-2003-15228; Airspace Docket No. 03-AEA-04] received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6233. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class D Airspace; Minot, ND [Docket No. FAA-2003-16057; Airspace Docket No. 03-AGL-07] received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6234. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; New Richmond, WI [Docket No. FAA-2003-16056; Airspace Docket No. 03-AGL-08] received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6235. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney JT9D-3A, -7, -7A, -7F, -7H, -7AH, and -7J Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 2003-NE-52-AD; Amendment 39-13381; AD 2003-24-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6236. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; The New Piper Aircraft, Inc. Models PA-31, PA-31-300, PA-31-325, PA-31-350, PA-31P, PA-31T, PA-31T1, PA-31T2, PA-31T3, and PA-31P-350 Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-CE-03-AD; Amendment 39-13376; AD 2003-24-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6237. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model EC120B Helicopters [Docket No. 2003-SW-07-AD; Amendment 39-13358; AD 2003-22-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6238. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopters, Inc. Model 369A, H, HE, HM, HS, D, and E Helicopters [Docket No. 2003-SW-16-AD; Amendment 39-13370; AD 2003-24-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6239. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney PW4074, PW4074D, PW4077, PW4077D, PW4084, PW4084D, PW4090, PW4090D, PW4090-3, and PW4098 Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 2003-NE-40-AD; Amendment 39-13357; AD 2003-22-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6240. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Trent 556-61 Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 2003-NE-42-AD; Amendment 39-13349; AD 2003-22-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6241. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model AS350B, B1, B2, B3, BA, C, D, D1, and AS355E, F, F1, F2, and N Helicopters [Docket No. 2003-SW-18-AD; Amendment 39-13359; AD 2003-22-11] (RIN: 1220-AA64) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6242. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Trent 768-60 and Trent 772-60 Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 2003-NE-37-AD; Amendment 39-13350; AD 2003-22-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6243. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model AS350B, B1, B2, B3, BA, C, D, D1, and AS355E, F, F1, F2, and N Helicopters [Docket No. 2000-SW-12-AD; Amendment 39-13354; AD 2003-22-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6244. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Hartzell Propeller Inc. Model HC-A6A-3 Series Propellers. [Docket No. 2003-NE-47-AD; Amendment 39-13352; AD 2003-22-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6245. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd., MU-2B Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-CE-22-AD; Amendment 39-13355; AD 2003-22-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6246. A letter from the Senior Attorney, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Hazardous Materials Regulations; Compatibility with the Regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency [Docket No. RSPA-99-6283(HM-230)] (RIN: 2137-AD40) received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6247. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Notice of Request for Initial Proposals (IPs) for Projects to be Funded from the Water Quality Cooperative Agreement Allocation (CFDA 66.463—Water Quality Cooperative Agreements)—received December 15, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6248. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Effluent Limitations Guidelines, Pretreatment Standards, and New Sources Performance Standards for the Centralized Waste Treatment Point Source Category [FRL-7601-3] (RIN: 2040-AD95) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6249. A letter from the Chair, Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, transmitting the annual

report of the activities of the Goldwater Foundation, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4710(b); to the Committee on Science.

6250. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the interim report on the Implementation of the Performance-Based Incentive System, submitted in compliance with Section 201 of the Child Support Performance and Incentive Act of 1998 (CSPIA); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6251. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a semi-annual report concerning emigration laws and policies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan, as required by Sections 402 and 409 of the 1974 Trade Act, as amended; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6252. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Weighted Average Interest Rate Update [Notice 2004-3] received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6253. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Guidance Under Section 1502; Application of Section 108 to Members of a Consolidated Group [TD 9098] (RIN: 1545-BC77) received December 12, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6254. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Hedging Transactions—received December 12, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6255. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Disclosure of Relative Values of Optional Forms of Benefit [TD 9099] (RIN: 1545-BA78) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6256. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property (Rev. Rul. 2004-2) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6257. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rulings and determination letters (Rev. Proc. 2004-9) received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6258. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rulings and determination letters (Rev. Proc. 2004-10) received December 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6259. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Guidance Necessary to Facilitate Business Electronic Filing [TD 9100] (RIN: 154-BC62) received December 2, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6260. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Interpretation of Section 301.6109(d)(3)(ii) of the Procedures and Administration Regulations [Notice 2004-1] received December 22, 2003, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6261. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Information Statements for Certain Substitute Payments [TD 9103] (RIN: 1545-BC97) received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6262. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Awards of attorney's fees and other costs based upon qualified offers [TD 9106] (RIN: 1545-AW99) received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6263. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Confidential Transactions [TD 9108] (RIN: 1545-BC76) received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6264. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Information Reporting Relating to Taxable Stock Transactions [TD 9101] (RIN: 1545-BC79) received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6265. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Establishing Defenses to the Imposition of the Accuracy-Related Penalty [TD 9109] (RIN: 1545-AY97) received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6266. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Political Organizations (Rev. Rul. 2004-6) received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6267. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Administrative, Procedural, and Miscellaneous [Notice 2004-2] received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6268. A letter from the SSA Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income; Collection of Overdue Program and Administrative Debts Using Administrative Wage Garnishment (RIN: 0960-AE92) received December 18, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6269. A letter from the Chairman, Advisory Panel to Assess Domestic Response Capabilities For Terrorism Involving Weapons of Mass Destruction, transmitting the Panel's fifth annual report entitled, "America's New Normalcy"; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Transportation and Infrastructure.

6270. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule—Medicare Program; Changes to Medicare Payment for Drugs and Physician Fee Schedule Payments for Calendar Year 2004 [CMS-1372-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AM97) received December 31, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

6271. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State,

transmitting a report entitled, "Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act" (Presidential Determination No. 2004-12), pursuant to Public Law 104-45, section 6 (109 Stat. 400); jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

6272. A letter from the Chair, Office of Compliance, transmitting a Notice for publication in the Congressional Record with drawing notice of proposed substantive rule making, and advance notice of proposed rule making, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1384(b), 2 U.S.C. 1316a(4); jointly to the Committees on House Administration and Education and the Workforce.

6273. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Pursuant to Section 428 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, a report of the status of implementation of that section of the law, which related to the Department of State and Department of Homeland Security's joint role in the visa process; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Homeland Security (Select).

6274. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting a copy of the Board's appeal letter to OMB regarding the initial determination of the FY 2005 budget request, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 1113; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Appropriations.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ANDREWS (for himself and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H.R. 3701. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend the provisions governing nonimmigrant status for spouses and children of permanent resident aliens awaiting the availability of an immigrant visa, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDIN:

H.R. 3702. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, to provide additional beneficiary protections; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MALONEY:

H.R. 3703. A bill to protect the civil rights of victims of gender-motivated violence and to promote public safety, health, and regulate activities affecting interstate commerce by creating employer liability for negligent conduct that results in an individual's committing a gender-motivated crime of violence against another individual on premises controlled by the employer; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCINNIS:

H.R. 3704. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 7.5 percent threshold on the deduction for medical expenses and to allow that deduction to taxpayers whether or not they itemize deductions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:

H.R. 3705. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to enhance the safety of beef

and beef food products originating in the United States by requiring the testing of cattle for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (commonly known as mad cow disease) at the time of slaughter, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:

H.R. 3706. A bill to adjust the boundary of the John Muir National Historic Site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. MOORE (for himself, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. EMANUEL, and Mr. WAMP):

H.R. 3707. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate fair prices for Medicare prescription drugs on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PITTS (for himself, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. PAUL, Mr. TANCREDO, and Mr. CROWLEY):

H.R. 3708. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Kazakhstan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROHRBACHER:

H.R. 3709. A bill to restore the Federal electoral rights of the residents of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Government Reform, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WEXLER:

H.R. 3710. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the importation of prescription drugs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WEXLER (for himself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. JEFFERSON):

H.R. 3711. A bill to amend the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173) to eliminate the comparative cost adjustment program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GIBBONS (for himself, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. COX, Mr. CRANE, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. CANNON, Mr. PENCE, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. DREIER, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. BONNER, Mr. WAMP, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. COLE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. OTTER, Mr. REYNOLDS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. AKIN, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. KING of Iowa, Ms. HART, Mr. PORTER, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. POMBO, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama,

Mr. CHOCOLA, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. HERGER, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CARTER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. TERRY, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. BALLENGER, and Mr. WOLF):

H.J. Res. 84. A joint resolution recognizing the 93d birthday of Ronald Reagan; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H.J. Res. 85. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to the maintenance of a system of social insurance that provides Social Security for its citizens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COSTELLO (for himself, Mr. HASTERT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. EVANS, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. CRANE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. ACEVEDO-VILA, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. CLAY, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. SKELTON, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. FARR, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. FROST, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. TANNER, Mr. PETRI, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. OBERSTAR):

H. Res. 489. A resolution stating the agreement of the House of Representatives with the sentiment expressed by the Senate in Senate Resolution 281; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. DREIER (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. GORDON, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. WALSH, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. COSTELLO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H. Res. 490. A resolution recognizing and commending the achievements of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and Cornell University in conducting the Mars Exploration Rover mission, and recognizing the importance of space exploration; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. OSBORNE (for himself, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. PETRI, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. KELLER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. KING of Iowa):

H. Res. 491. A resolution honoring individuals who are mentors and supporting efforts to recruit more mentors; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. FOLEY,

Mr. KING of New York, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. BAKER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. NUSSLE, and Mr. BISHOP of New York):

H. Res. 492. A resolution honoring the contributions of Catholic schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota (for himself, Mr. KLINE, Mr. SABO, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. RAMSTAD, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota):

H. Res. 493. A resolution congratulating the St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, football team on winning the 2003 NCAA Division III Football National Championship; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LEACH:

H. Res. 494. A resolution to create a select committee to investigate the awarding and carrying out of contracts to conduct activities in Afghanistan and Iraq and to fight the war on terrorism; to the Committee on Rules.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

240. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Texas, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 103 memorializing the United States Congress to improve the enforcement of food import restrictions on seafood imports; to the Committee on Agriculture.

241. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to House Resolution No. 520 expressing its support for the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2004 (H.R. 1588) and the protections it confers on certain noncitizen military personnel; to the Committee on Armed Services.

242. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 183 memorializing the United States Congress to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide that the statute of limitations for an identity theft suit is two years from the time the fraud was discovered; to the Committee on Financial Services.

243. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8 encouraging the International Joint Commission to maintain its participation in developing feasible and defensible strategies and policies that protect the Great Lakes waters from out-of-basin diversions and to continue to support the Annex 2001 process; to the Committee on International Relations.

244. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to House Resolution No. 510 the House of Representative of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation reenacting the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund; to the Committee on Resources.

245. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 2 memorializing the Congress of the United States to provide for the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution to guarantee equal protection and due process to all persons born or naturalized in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

246. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 136 memorializing the United States Congress to enact legislation to grant a federal charter to the Korean War Veterans Association; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

247. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 187 memorializing the United States Congress to enact legislation to grant a federal charter to the Korean War Veterans Association; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

248. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 16 revoking Joint Resolution No. IV of 1868 which attempted to withdraw New Jersey's ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

249. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 186 memorializing the United States Congress to enact legislation to prohibit the use of a person's Social Security number as an identification number beyond its original purpose; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

250. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to House Resolution No. 514 the House of Representative of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging the President and the Congress of the United States to continue to support the revitalization of the American steel industry by reinstating the steel tariffs under Section 201 of the Trade act of 1974 or providing support to the steel industry for the entire three-year duration regardless of the World Trade Organization's November 10, 2003 ruling; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

251. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to House Resolution No. 486 of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorializing the President and the Congress of the United States to support efforts to increase LIHEAP funding over last year's funding; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and the Workforce.

252. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 141 memorializing the United States Congress to enact the Great Lakes environmental restoration act; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Resources.

253. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 182 memorializing the United States Congress to enact legislation to provide greater protections against identity theft; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Financial Services.

254. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 182 memorializing the United States Congress to enact measures that support venture capital activities in Michigan; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Small Business.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 80: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 218: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 284: Mr. GILLMOR, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. CANNON.

H.R. 299: Mr. REYNOLDS.

H.R. 328: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 378: Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky.

H.R. 527: Mr. SOUDER.

H.R. 548: Mr. CLYBURN.

H.R. 583: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 594: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. KIRK, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 623: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 645: Mr. SIMMONS.

H.R. 677: Mr. STARK.

H.R. 687: Mr. GERLACH and Mr. FOSSELLA.

H.R. 713: Mr. BELL, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 716: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 717: Mr. GRUJALVA.

H.R. 745: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 776: Mr. SHAYS and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 886: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 898: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida and Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida.

H.R. 970: Mr. MCINTYRE and Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota.

H.R. 972: Mr. MCHUGH.

H.R. 1029: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. STARK.

H.R. 1043: Mr. GILCHREST and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.

H.R. 1061: Mr. DOOLEY of California.

H.R. 1111: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 1117: Mr. HEFLEY and Mr. PITTS.

H.R. 1160: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. HOFFEEL.

H.R. 1179: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 1191: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 1196: Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon.

H.R. 1205: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 1206: Mr. OTTER.

H.R. 1214: Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri and Mr. QUINN.

H.R. 1258: Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 1268: Mr. MCINTYRE and Mr. SHAYS.

H.R. 1285: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. DELAURIO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 1321: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 1345: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. HOLDEN.

H.R. 1349: Mr. LANTOS.

H.R. 1359: Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. RAMSTAD.

H.R. 1385: Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina.

H.R. 1414: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 1434: Mr. WYNN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.R. 1472: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 1508: Mr. MOORE.

H.R. 1626: Mr. HERGER.

H.R. 1628: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 1695: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1700: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. OWENS, and Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 1708: Mr. SCHROCK.

H.R. 1713: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1863: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. NORWOOD.

H.R. 1873: Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. TURNER of Ohio.

H.R. 1874: Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon.

H.R. 1943: Mr. WAMP.

H.R. 2038: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 2079: Mr. GUTKNECHT.

H.R. 2192: Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 2213: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 2217: Mr. STUPAK and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 2239: Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. PETRI, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. SABO.

H.R. 2295: Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

H.R. 2318: Mr. SCHIFF and Ms. KILPATRICK.

- H.R. 2323: Mr. FROST and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 2379: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 2391: Mr. HYDE.
H.R. 2404: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. ENGLISH.
H.R. 2440: Mr. SULLIVAN.
H.R. 2527: Mr. HOLT and Mr. SIMMONS.
H.R. 2626: Mr. SPRATT.
H.R. 2664: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 2665: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 2727: Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 2759: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2768: Mr. WAMP, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. HALL, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. HAYES, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. EVANS, Mr. HILL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LEE, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. OWENS, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RUSH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. CARDOZA.
H.R. 2823: Mr. MATHESON, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. GORDON, Mr. WEINER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. McDERMOTT.
H.R. 2832: Mr. HILL.
H.R. 2853: Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 2945: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. FARR, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3015: Mrs. BIGGERT.
H.R. 3048: Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 3069: Mrs. MUSGRAVE and Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 3085: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 3111: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 3139: Mr. BELL and Mr. JONES of North Carolina.
H.R. 3178: Mr. WEINER, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 3184: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 3190: Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. OTTER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 3194: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 3204: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. OLVER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, and Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 3270: Mr. SIMMONS.
H.R. 3352: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 3359: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.
H.R. 3362: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 3416: Mr. FROST and Mr. BROWN of Ohio.
H.R. 3424: Mr. FROST, Mr. ACEVEDO-VILA, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 3425: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. FROST, Mr. ACEVEDO-VILA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 3429: Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. CRANE, and Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 3432: Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 3473: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. COBLE, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. KIND, Mr. EVERETT, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 3474: Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. BALLANCE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. GOODE, Mr. WAMP, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. WU, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. KIND, Mr. ROSS, Mr. HAYES, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BACA, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. WEINER, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. OBERSTAR.
H.R. 3484: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3488: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 3492: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 3539: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 3550: Mr. RUSH, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WU, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. EMANUEL, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 3582: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 3632: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 3643: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 3676: Mr. SPRATT, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 3677: Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CASE, and Mr. FROST.
H.R. 3688: Mr. TURNER of Texas.
H.J. Res. 22: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.J. Res. 38: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
H.J. Res. 62: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H. Con. Res. 3: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. FROST, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. OWENS.
H. Con. Res. 87: Mr. RADANOVICH.
H. Con. Res. 182: Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.
H. Con. Res. 218: Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. PALLONE.
H. Con. Res. 226: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H. Con. Res. 247: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. ALLEN.
H. Con. Res. 275: Mr. WEINER.
H. Con. Res. 298: Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. PETRI, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. JENKINS, and Mr. HAYWORTH.
H. Con. Res. 332: Mr. WEXLER, Mr. FROST, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. WEINER.
H. Con. Res. 343: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. SABO, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. SPRATT, and Mr. BERMAN.
H. Res. 38: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 103: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.
H. Res. 320: Ms. WATERS.
H. Res. 363: Ms. PELOSI.
H. Res. 419: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H. Res. 461: Mr. HOEFFEL.
H. Res. 466: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FARR, and Mr. OWENS.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

51. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Common Council of the City of Buffalo, New York, relative to resolution No. 3 petitioning the Department of Strategic Planning to release all Year 29 Community Development Block Grant funds; to the Committee on Financial Services.

52. Also, a petition of James J. Kearney, Plantation, Florida, relative to a notice of fraud and demand for redress; to the Committee on Ways and Means.